SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

THE POWER OF NEGATIVE THINKING VOLUME 12

KOJI KUMETA

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

The Power of Negative Thinking 12

Koji Kumeta

Translated and adapted by Joshua Weeks
Lettered by Aaron Alexovich

KC
KODANSHA COMICS

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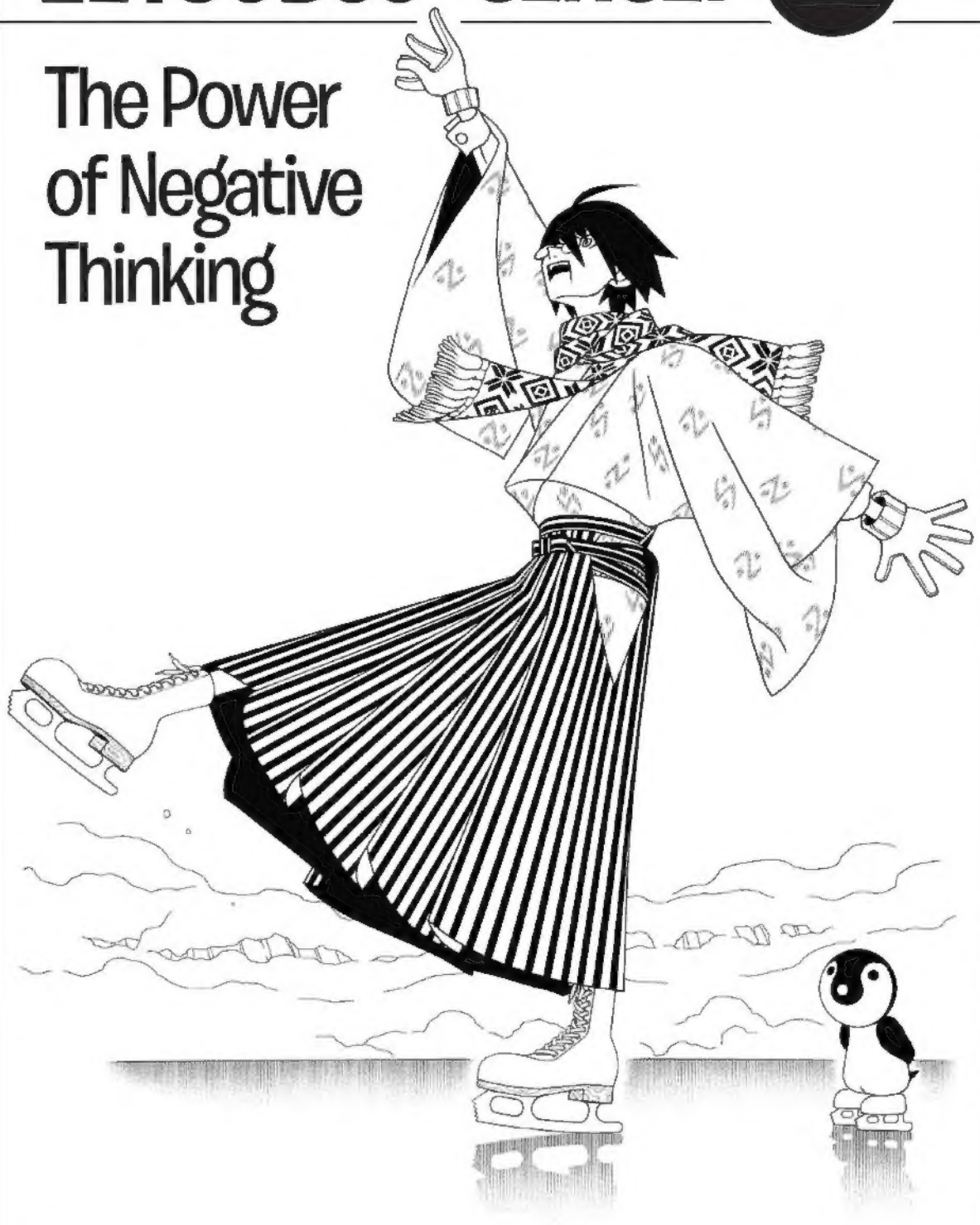
THE STORY SO FAR

With the strong belief that he must revolutionize Japan, Nozomu travels to America to learn modern ways of thinking. What awaits him, however, is fierce racial discrimination and accusations of erotic terrorism as a viewer. He responds with a letter: "Aren't erotic terrorists as viewers a thing of the past after Yinling-sama? At this rate, every middle school age Japanese boy is an erotic terrorist!" But his letter is rejected because "America does not negotiate with terrorists," and he is imprisoned in Alcatraz. Cultural lefty Bob, wearing a Guevara shirt and imprisoned in the same cell, comes over and makes the uninhibited premonition: "Japan's history following the Edo Period will be written by Ryotaro Shiba." It takes all Nozomu has to muster, "his white hair is really cool..."

Koji Kumeta

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI 12

The Power of Negative Thinking



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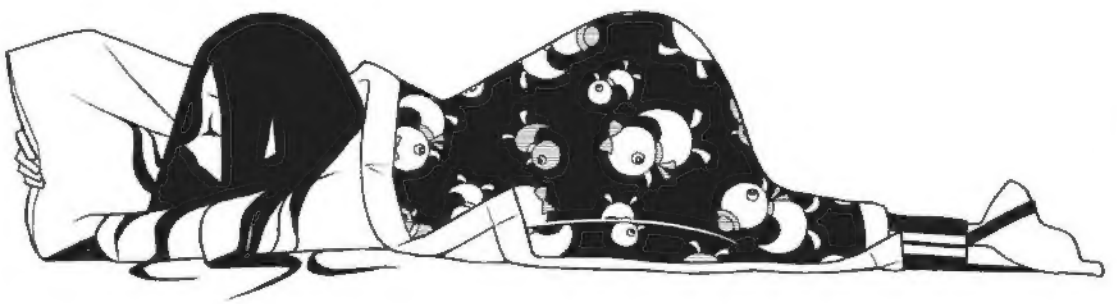


ITOSHIKI FAMILY TREE

CAST OF CHARACTERS 1

MAJIRU ITOSHIKI
CURRENTLY LIVING WITH
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

FIRST SON
ENISHI ITOSHIKI

WIFE
TAE ITOSHIKI

HEAD OF THE FAMILY
HIROSHI ITOSHIKI

FOURTH SON
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
PROFESSOR NEGATIVE

SECOND SON
KEI ITOSHIKI
SELF-COMPLETING ARTIST

FIRST DAUGHTER
RIN ITOSHIKI
ITOSHIKI-STYLE
IKEBANA INSTRUCTOR

THIRD SON
MIKOTO ITOSHIKI
FOUNDING DOCTOR
OF ITOSHIKI CLINIC

TOKITA
ITOSHIKI FAMILY BUTLER

Cast of Characters 2

Friday, February 15, 2008 — Day Duty — Kuniya Kino, Ai Kaga

MATOI TSUNETSUKI
STALKER GIRL

KAERE KIMURA
(ALSO KAEDE)
BILINGUAL GIRL WITH SPLIT PERSONALITY

KAFUKA FUURA
SUPERPOSITIVE GIRL

NAMI HITOU
ORDINARY GIRL

MANAMI OKUSA
HIGH SCHOOL HOUSEWIFE WITH MULTIPLE DEBTS

ABIRU KOBUSHI
TAIL FETISH GIRL; THOUGHT TO BE THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HARUMI FUJIYOSHI
EAR-FETISH GIRL; ADDICTED TO MALE-MALE PAIRINGS

MERU OTONASHI
POISON-TONGUED EMAIL GIRL

KIRI KOMORI
HIKIKOMORI GIRL

AI KAGA
DELUSIONAL SELF-BLAMER

MAYO MITAMA
GIRL WHO IS EXACTLY HOW SHE LOOKS

KAGEROU USUI
HEAD OF THE CLASS

CHIRI KITSU
METHODICAL AND PRECISE GIRL

KOTONON
INTERNET IDOL

2-F Homeroom Teacher

"Nozomu Itoshiki"

いとしき のぞむ

糸 ↑ 色 / 七望

Warning! Don't write these characters too close to each other!

"Professor Negative"

One-Day Friend

IKKYU-SAN
AN OLD FRIEND OF NOZOMU ITOSHIKI (ONE-DAY FRIEND)

Siblings

RIN ITOSHIKI
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI'S LITTLE SISTER

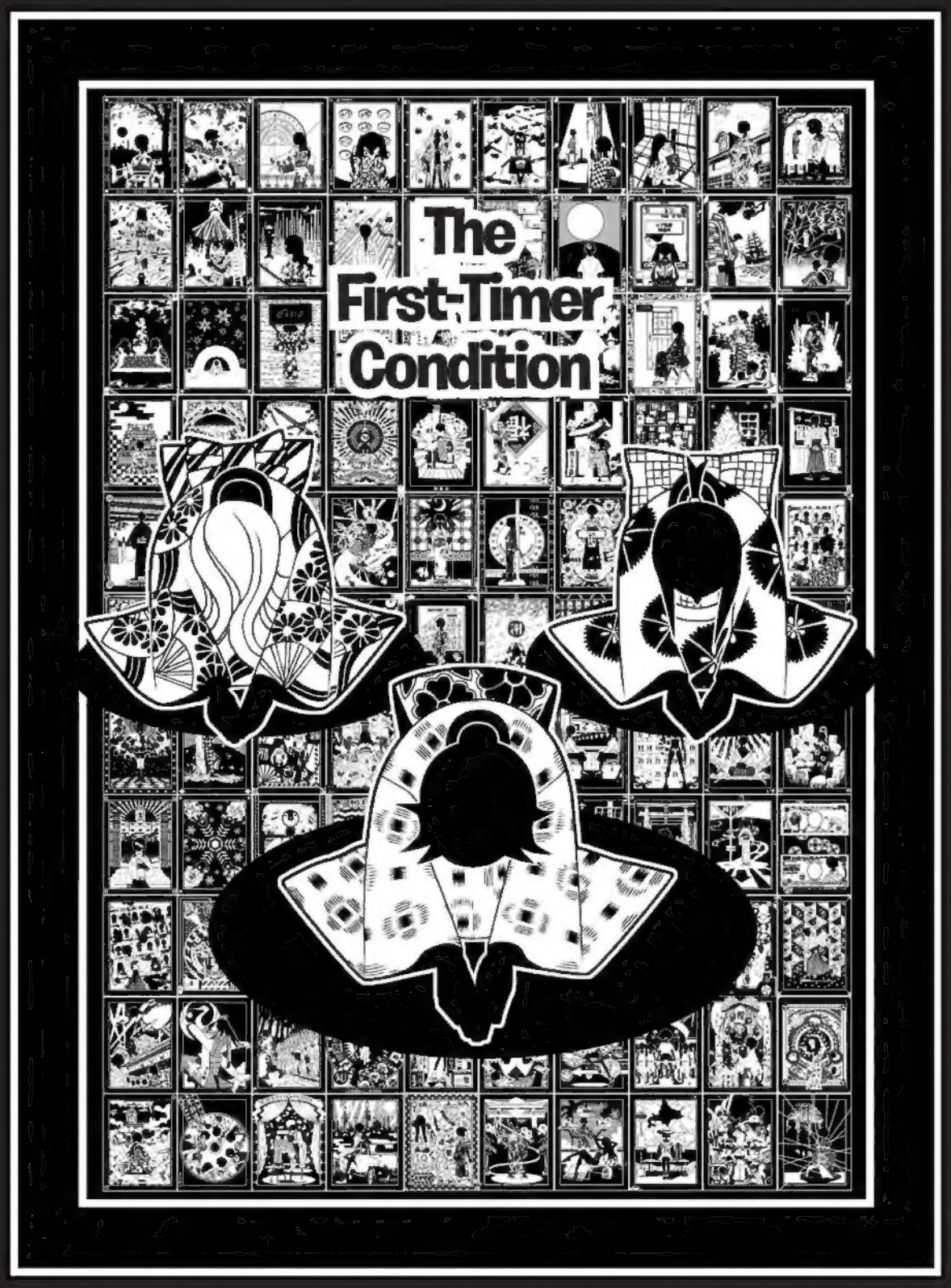
Rival

MARIA TARO SEKIUTSU
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT; REFUGEE GIRL

JUN KUTOU
GENIUS STORYTELLER

KUNIYA KINO
LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEMBER REALLY HATES LOSING

WATARU MANSEIBASHI
HARDCORE OTAKU
2-G (CLASS NEXT DOOR)



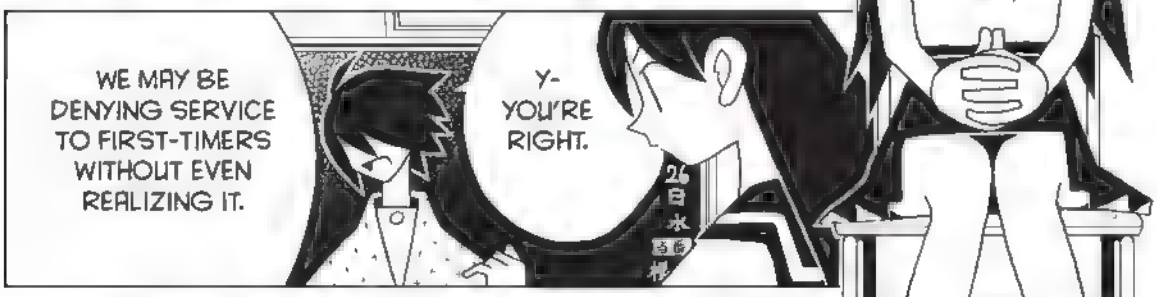
CHAPTER 111

MON. TUE. WED. THU. FRI.
1ST PERIOD
SELF STUDY SELF STUDY SELF STUDY SELF STUDY SELF STUDY
2ND PERIOD
JAPANESE HISTORY
CLASSICAL LITERATURE (GOREY)
HEALTH AND PE
JAPANESE
MATH A
FIRST PERIOD IS ALL "SELF STUDY"?
HEY! WHAT'S THIS...?
I REFUSE TO TEACH FIRST-TIMERS.
ERP?
RU RU RU RU RU RU

GREEN TEA PAFUE
TSUHIRI
YATSUHASHI-KO
SUZUMUSHI
IEMON
SINCE I'VE COME ALL THE WAY TO KYOTO, I MIGHT AS WELL INDULGE A LITTLE.
SLIDE
カラッ
SAKANADE
NISHAUKA
NO.
HAVE YOU BEEN FORMALLY INTRODUCED TO US?
TABLE FOR ONE, PLEASE.
WE REFUSE SERVICE TO FIRST-TIMERS.
I ♥ KYOTO
GION
KINKAKU TEMPLE
嵐山
ARASHIYAMA
33
...SYSTEM OF REFUSING SERVICE TO FIRST-TIME CUSTOMERS.
SO THIS IS KYOTO'S FAMOUS...
SLAM
ぴしゃっ

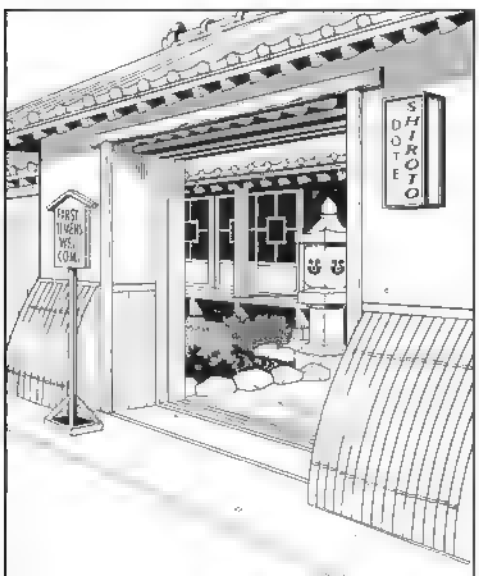
MANY PLACES BESIDES TRADITIONAL JAPANESE RESTAURANTS AND TEASHOPS ALSO REFUSE SERVICE TO FIRST-TIMERS.
BEGINNING OF 2ND PERIOD
SO YOU'RE TAKING IT OUT ON US?
I JUST WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY FEELINGS OF REJECTION.
DING
キーン
コーン
DONG
HEY! HEY!
I'M 17!
オイ オイ!
OR HOW SOME IDOL SINGERS' CONCERTS HAVE UNSPOKEN RULES!
OR HOW EVERYONE AT THE DOG RUN SEEMS TO KNOW EACH OTHER!
LIKE HOW EVERYONE PLAYING ONLINE GAMES IS INSANELY GOOD!
WAIT A SECOND...
I'M IN DESPAIR OVER A SOCIETY WHERE FIRST-TIMERS ARE DENIED SER-
I'M IN DES-PAIR!
DON'T WE SORT OF DENY SERVICE TO FIRST-TIMERS, TOO?
• ADDING FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK
• NIGHTCLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
• SHINJUKU LOFT
• FINDING LIVING SPACE IN PUBLIC PARKS
• COMPETITIVE BIDDING
• YAKITORI RESTAURANTS WITH ONLY REGULAR CUSTOMERS
• THE FIVE STAR STORIES
• RYO SHOKATSU "KOME!"
• EXCLUSIVE UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS
• 24
• GUIN SAGA

TWITCH
ヌガン
...CAN REALLY UNDERSTAND THIS MANGA.
I WONDER IF PEOPLE READING FOR THE FIRST TIME...


WE MAY BE DENYING SERVICE TO FIRST-TIMERS WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT.

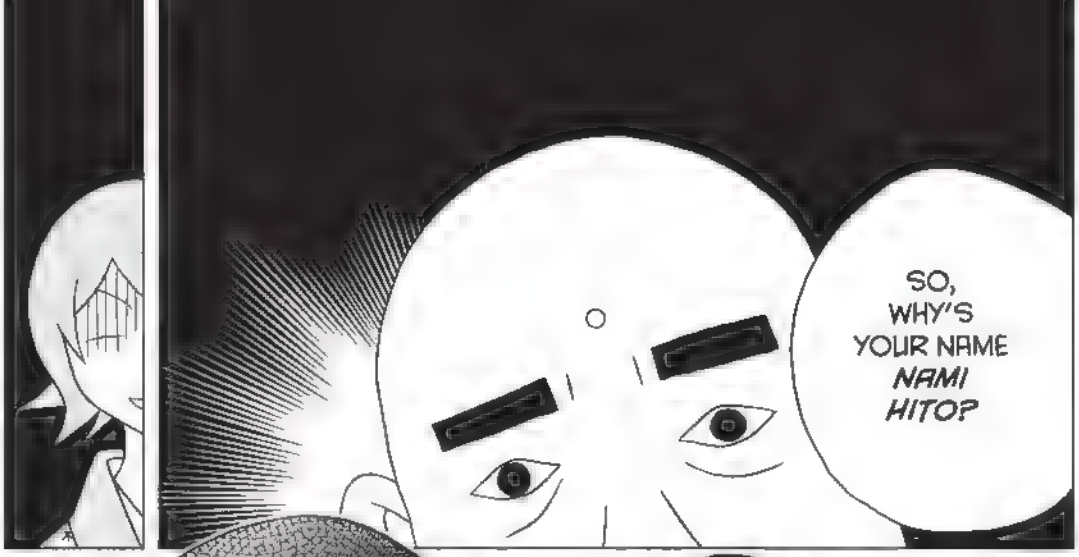
...AND THE HARDER IT IS FOR FIRST-TIMERS TO ENTER OUR WORLD!
THE LONGER THE SERIALIZATION, THE MORE SPECIALIZED THE CONTENT BECOMES...

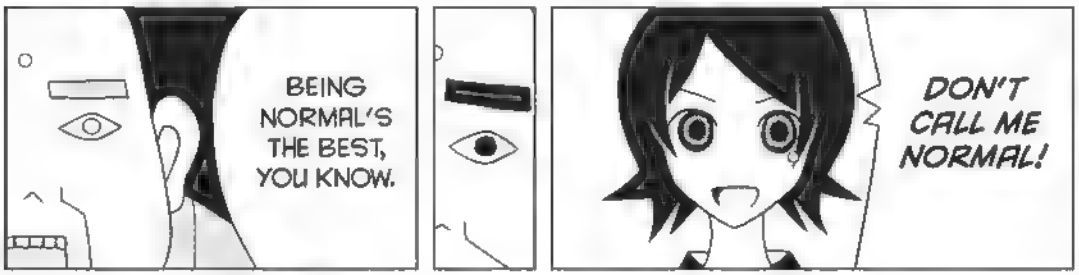
...SO THAT EVEN FIRST-TIMERS CAN UNDERSTAND "ZETSUBO-SENSEI."
WE'LL HAVE TO START A NEW CAMPAIGN WITH EASIER CONTENT...


SHIROTO
DOTE

...LET'S USE THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE RESTAURANT OWNED BY THE ITOSHIKI FAMILY.
IN THAT CASE, BIG BROTHER...

WELCOME.
I'M A FIRST-TIMER... IS THAT OKAY?
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE WELCOME HERE.
WE HAVE A FIRST-TIMER!
SOMEONE GO GREET HIM IN THE PARLOR!
MY NAME IS NAMI HITO.
WEL-COME, SIR.





INTRO-DUCING THE CHAR-ACTERS

NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

THE PROTA-GONIST. A NEGATIVE-THINKING TEACHER WHO INTERPRETS EVERYTHING WITH A NEGATIVE TWIST. ALSO KNOWN AS ZETSUBOU-SENSEI.

KAFUKA FUURA

A SUPER-POSITIVE GIRL. INTERPRETS EVERYTHING WITH A POSI-TIVE TWIST, AND SERVES AS A CHECK TO ZETSUBOU-SENSEI'S OUT-OF-CONTROL CLASSES. ALSO HAS A DARK SIDE.

CHIRI KITSU

AN EXTREMELY WELL ORGA-NIZED GIRL WHO ISN'T SATISFIED UNLESS EVERYTHING IS METICU-LOUS. GOES CRAZY WHEN THINGS ARE SLOPPY. INJURES PEOPLE FREQUENTLY.

KIRI KOMORI

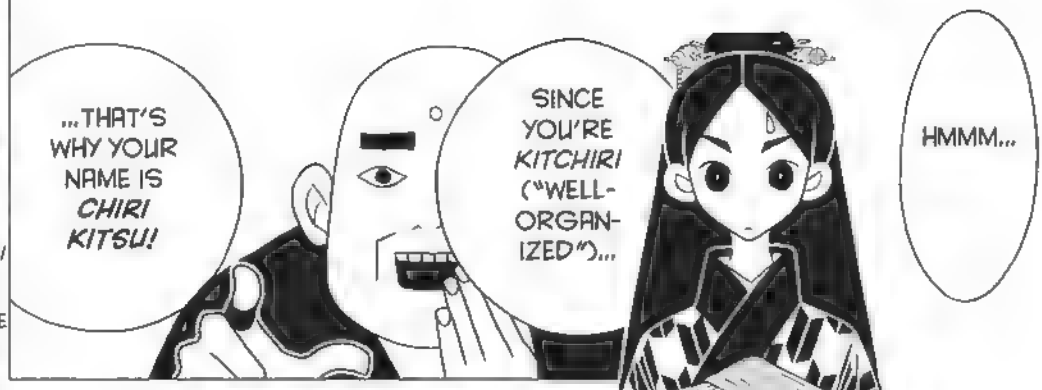
A *HIKIKOMORI* G.RL. SHE USED TO REFUSE TO LEAVE HER HOME, BUT AT ZETSUBOU-SENSEI'S URGING SHE HAS NOW BECOME A "SCHOOL HIKIKOMORI" WHO REFUSES TO LEAVE SCHOOL.

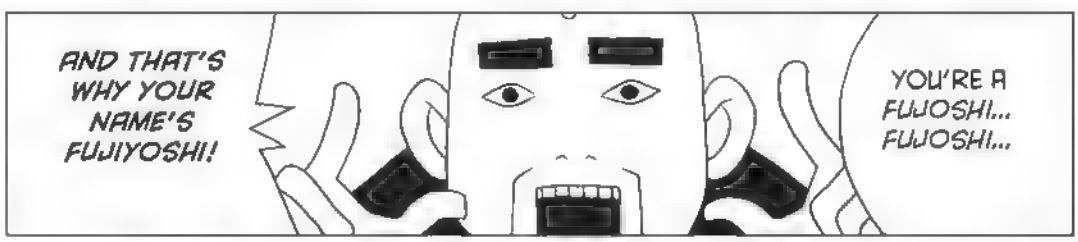
MATOI TSUNET-SUKI

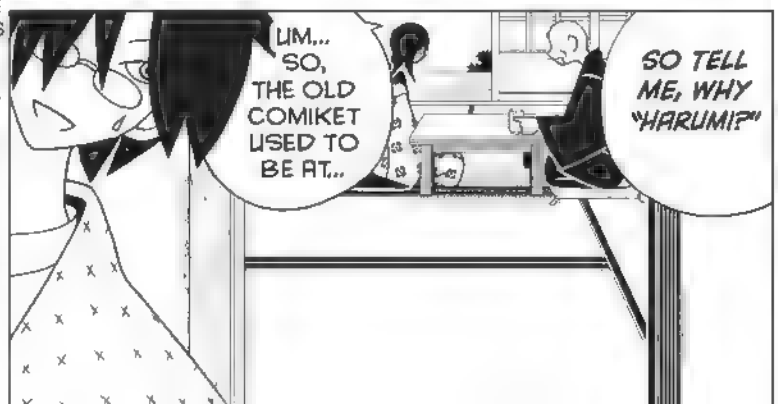
A STALKER GIRL. SHE EXPERIENCES FEELINGS OF LOVE DEEPER THAN ANYONE ELSE'S, AND STALKS ZETSUBOU-SENSEI. HER EX-BOY-FRIEND'S NAME IS TAKASHI.

ABIRU KOBUSHI

SHE IS THOUGHT TO BE THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. SHE ALWAYS SEEMS TO HAVE NEW WOUNDS, BUT THEY'RE ACTU-ALLY FROM ANIMAL BITES AT THE ZOO. IN CHAPTER 104, SHE AND ZETSUBOU-SENSEI WENT ON A DATE.







KIRI KOMORI... *KOMORIKIRI* ("FOREVER WITH-DRAWN") ...

IT'S CUZ SHE'S A HIKIKOMORI WHO STAYS INSIDE ALL THE TIME!

MATOI TSUNET-SUKI... *TSUNE NI TSUKI-MATOI* ("ALWAYS LINGER-ING")...

IT'S CUZ SHE'S A STALKER WHO'S ALWAYS LINGER-ING AROUND!

MAYO MITAMA... *MITA MAMA YO* ("JUST HOW SHE LOOKS")...

IT'S CUZ SHE'S EXACTLY HOW SHE LOOKS!

SENSEI...! CAN WE PLEASE KILL HIM NOW?

NOW NOW... WE HAVE TO BE FRIENDLY TO FIRST-TIMERS.

JINROKU-SENSEI

SUPPOSEDLY A VETERAN TEACHER AT ZETSUBOU-SENSEI'S SCHOOL, BUT WITH THE TATTOOS ON HIS BACK, THE SMELL OF GUNPOWDER AROUND HIM, AND THE SURGICAL REMOVAL OF BULLETS FROM HIS BODY, MAYBE HE'S ACTUALLY A MILITARY COMMANDER ?

WHAT'S THIS PICTURE FOR?

DESTROY THE OIL FIELDS

ERR... IT APPEARS IN EACH CHAPTER... IT'S KIND OF LIKE FAN SERVICE...

SO, LIKE, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

UM... WELL, I'M NOT SO SURE IT ACTU-ALLY *MEANS* ANYTHING...

SO WHAT'S THE POINT, THEN?

ARE YOU ENJOYING YOURSELF, MR. FIRST-TIMER?

SLIDE

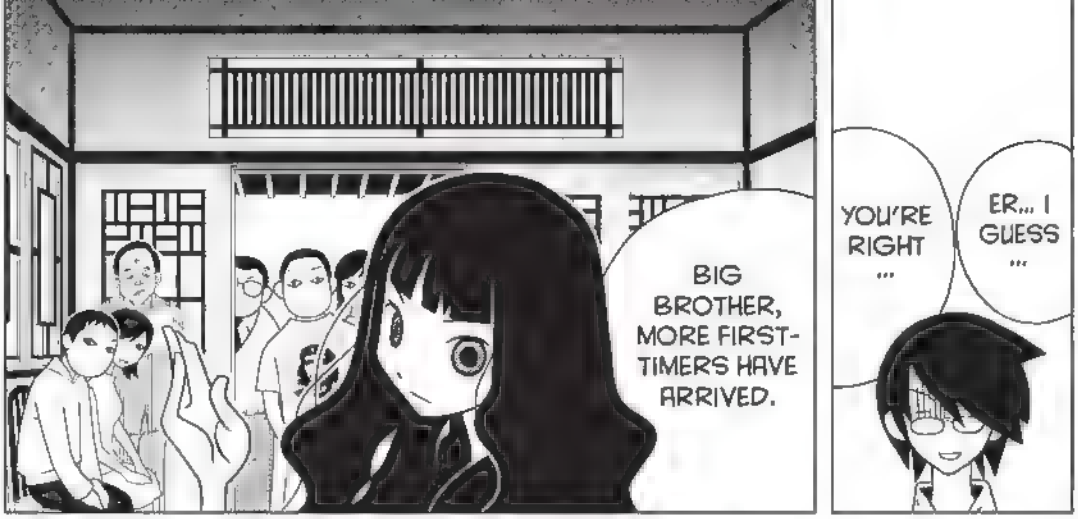
YEAH, I GUESS.

PERRY-SAN

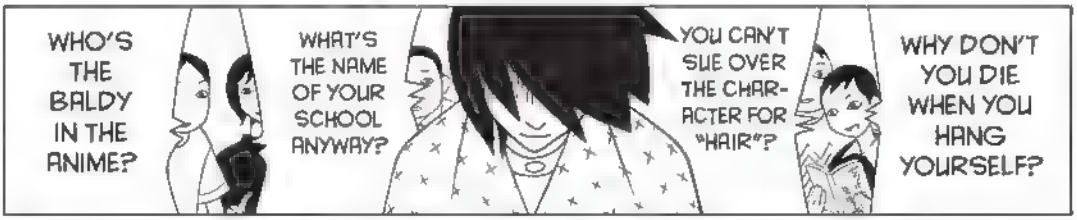
A PECULIAR FOREIGNER WHO COMES TO JAPAN TO OPEN EVERY-THING. LIVING A LONELY LIFE IN JAPAN, HIS HUMAN LIMITA-TIONS ARE TAKEN ADVAN-TAGE OF BY KAFUKA-CHAN. HE TRIES TO OPEN ZETSU-BOU-SENSEI'S HEART AND FAILS.

THE BEST WOMAN

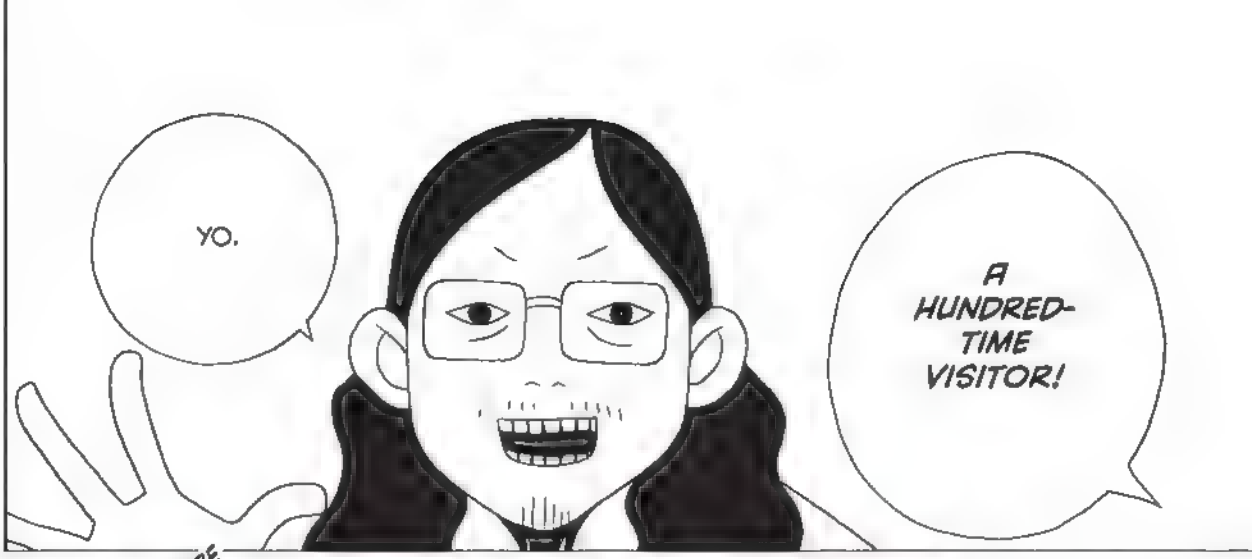
QUITE LITERALLY THE BEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD, WHO ONLY HAMASHO COULD EVER DREAM OF BEING WITH. BUT IF YOU CALL THE SEIJO GENTLEMEN'S CLUB, AND FULFILL CERTAIN CONDITIONS, YOU CAN BECOME A GOLD MEMBER. THEN, IF YOU ORDER THE SIX-HOUR VIP COURSE AND REQUEST THE "BEST WOMAN," THERE'S A CHANCE YOU'LL MEET HER. BUT IT COSTS 250,000 YEN. EXTENSIONS ARE 70,000 YEN (PER HOUR).



SO DOES THE MANGA TAKE PLACE IN THE TAISHO ERA?
YES, BUT THE FIRST SEASON HAS ALREADY ENDED.
SAYONARA ZETSUBOU SENSEI
WHAT! SO THIS SERIES IS AN ANIME, TOO?


WHO'S THE BALDY IN THE ANIME?
WHAT'S THE NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL ANYWAY?
YOU CAN'T SUE OVER THE CHARACTER FOR "HAIR"?
WHY DON'T YOU DIE WHEN YOU HANG YOURSELF?

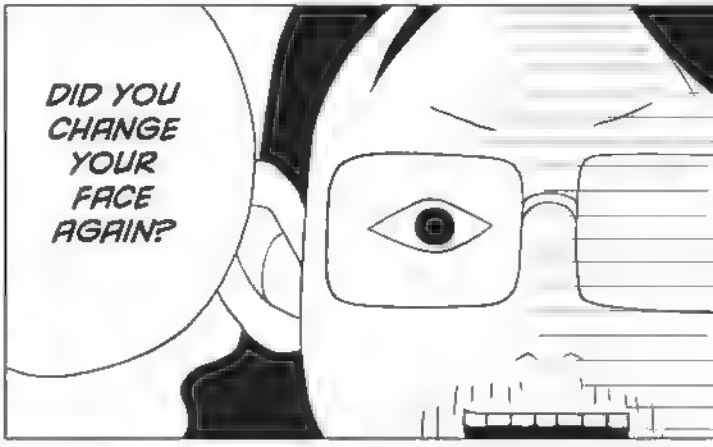
I'VE BROUGHT A NEW CUSTOMER WHO YOU MIGHT PREFER...
SENSEI! IF YOU REFUSE SERVICE TO FIRST-TIMERS, YOU WON'T FULFILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A QUICK-READ COMEDY MANGA!
GET OUT !!!

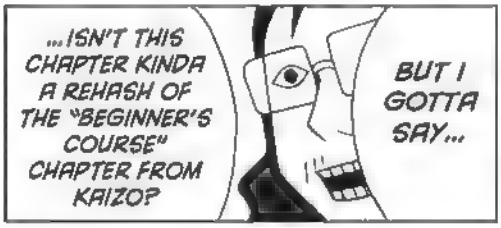

YO.
A HUNDRED-TIME VISITOR!

STARE

SINCE HE PATRONIZES THIS MANGA REGULARLY, I BET HE'S VERY FAMILIAR WITH ALL OF US.
OH WOW. A REAL HUNDRED-TIMER?

IT MUST BE THE INFLUENCE OF THE ANIME.
THIS HUNDRED-TIMER IS AWFULLY PERCEPTIVE.


DID YOU CHANGE YOUR FACE AGAIN?

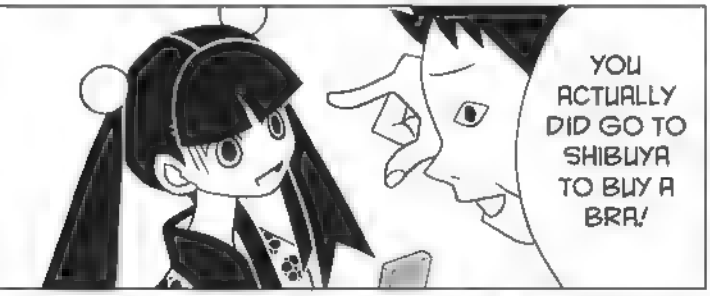

...ISN'T THIS CHAPTER KINDA A REHASH OF THE "BEGINNER'S COURSE" CHAPTER FROM KAIZO?
BUT I GOTTA SAY...

YOU'RE SO KNOW-LEDGE-ABLE, MR. HUNDRED-TIMER.
OH! THIS DRAWING IS BY A READER NAMED CASVAR.

ぞろぞろ
LURCH LURCH
AAA
MORE HUNDRED-TIMERS HAVE ARRIVED.

HA-HA-HA-HA. THAT'S A BIT HARSH...
HAS YOUR RECENT SCHEDULE BEEN TOUGH, WITH THE COMPILATION AND ALL? THE ARTWORK'S BEEN GETTING KINDA SLOPPY.

PLEASE DON'T MAKE ANY PREDICTIONS!
LET'S TRY TO PREDICT THE LAST CHAPTER.
SO IS EVERYONE HERE?


YOU ACTUALLY DID GO TO SHIBUYA TO BUY A BRA!

ONE OF THEM IS BOUND TO BE RIGHT...

WHEN'S KAFUKA'S NEW LOOK GONNA COME BACK?
YOU SOMETIMES LEAVE OUT PERIODS. GET IT TOGETHER.
YOU WERE TOTALLY OFF ABOUT SUZUKA'S DAUGHTER'S NAME. IT WASN'T TSUNDERE!
CONGRATS ON HIS PLACEMENT IN GUNDAM!

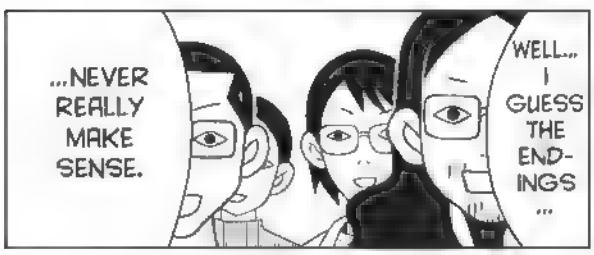
HMM... IS IT GOING TO BE ANOTHER "PSYCHOTIC ENDING"?

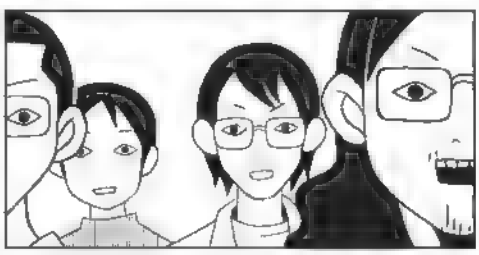
HEY!
I KNOW! LET'S PREDICT WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN ON THE LAST PAGE.

THIS IS UTTER LUDICROUSNESS.

SO... WHAT'LL IT BE?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

Prediction of This Week's Ending
BOLD
- Moe ending
- Psychotic ending
- Religion ending
- Dream signal ending
- Death ending
- Backstage ending
- Natural disaster ending
- Explosion ending
Throw down Noncon Hoku
OKAY EVERYONE, PUT YOUR BRAINS TOGETHER.
BLURR

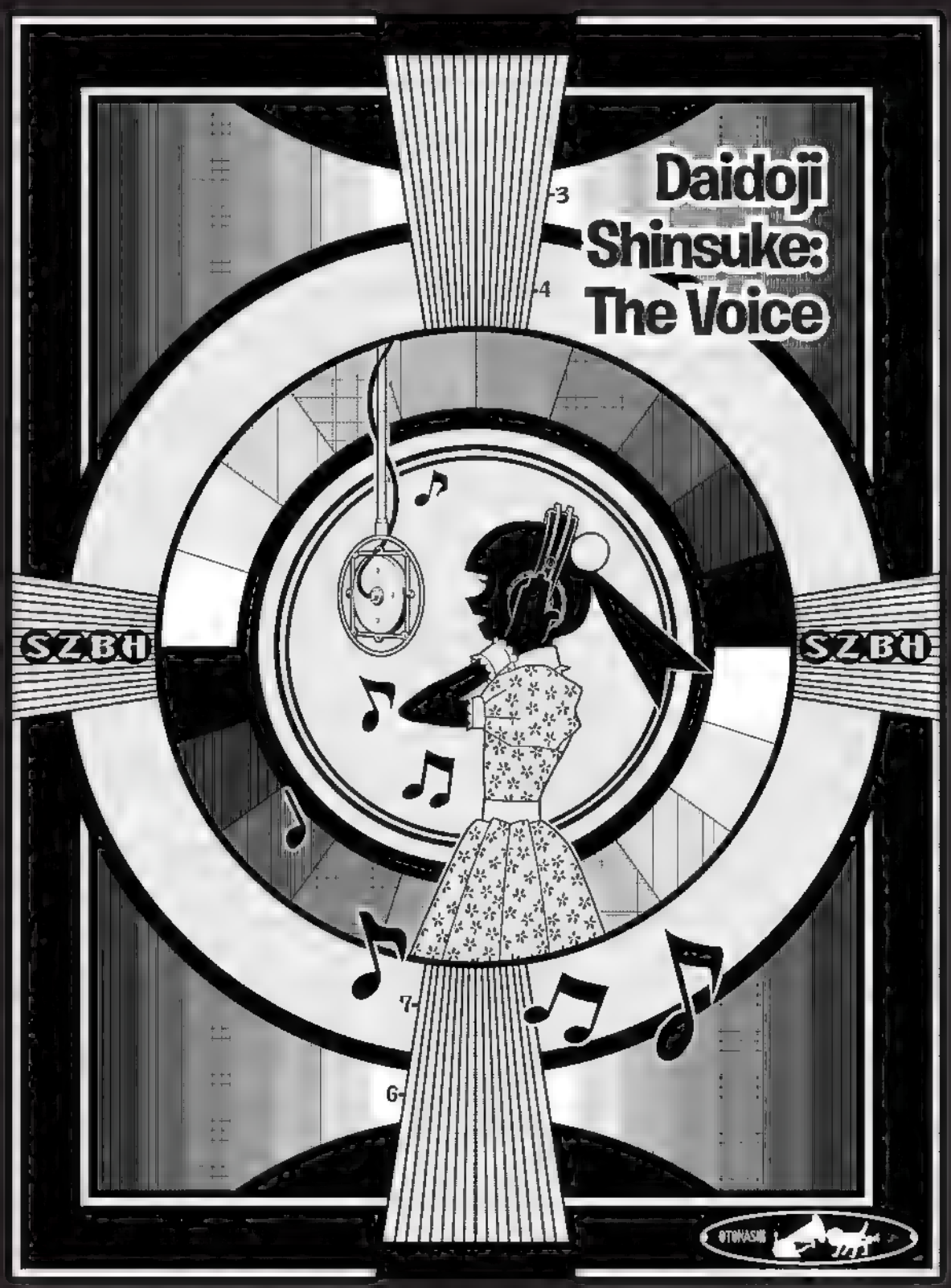




ABE-SAN
HE GOT BLOWN AWAY IN A HURRICANE (CHAPTER 110), SO HE WON'T APPEAR ANYMORE.

I THINK *ABOUT TEN* IS IDEAL.
GOOD QUESTION.
SO HOW MANY VISITS WOULD YOU FEEL MOST COMFORTABLE WITH?

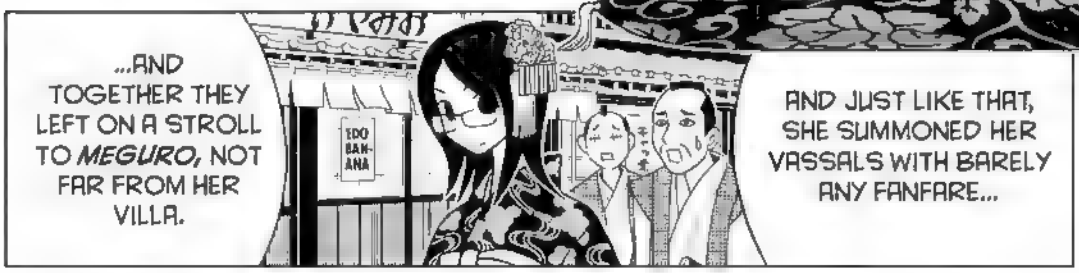
AWWWW!
THAT'S SOMEONE WHO STOPPED READING AROUND *VOLUME SEVEN.*
A TEN-TIME VISITOR...

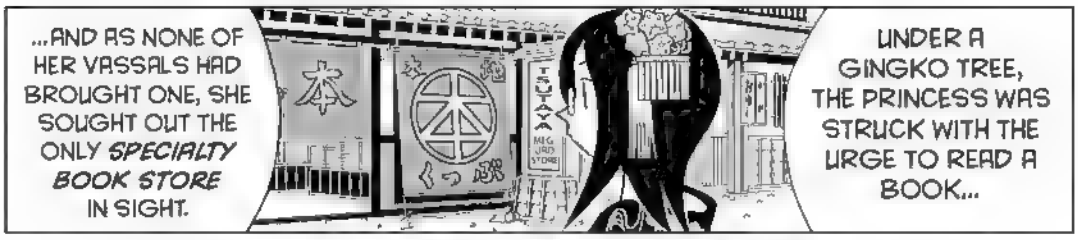


CHAPTER 112

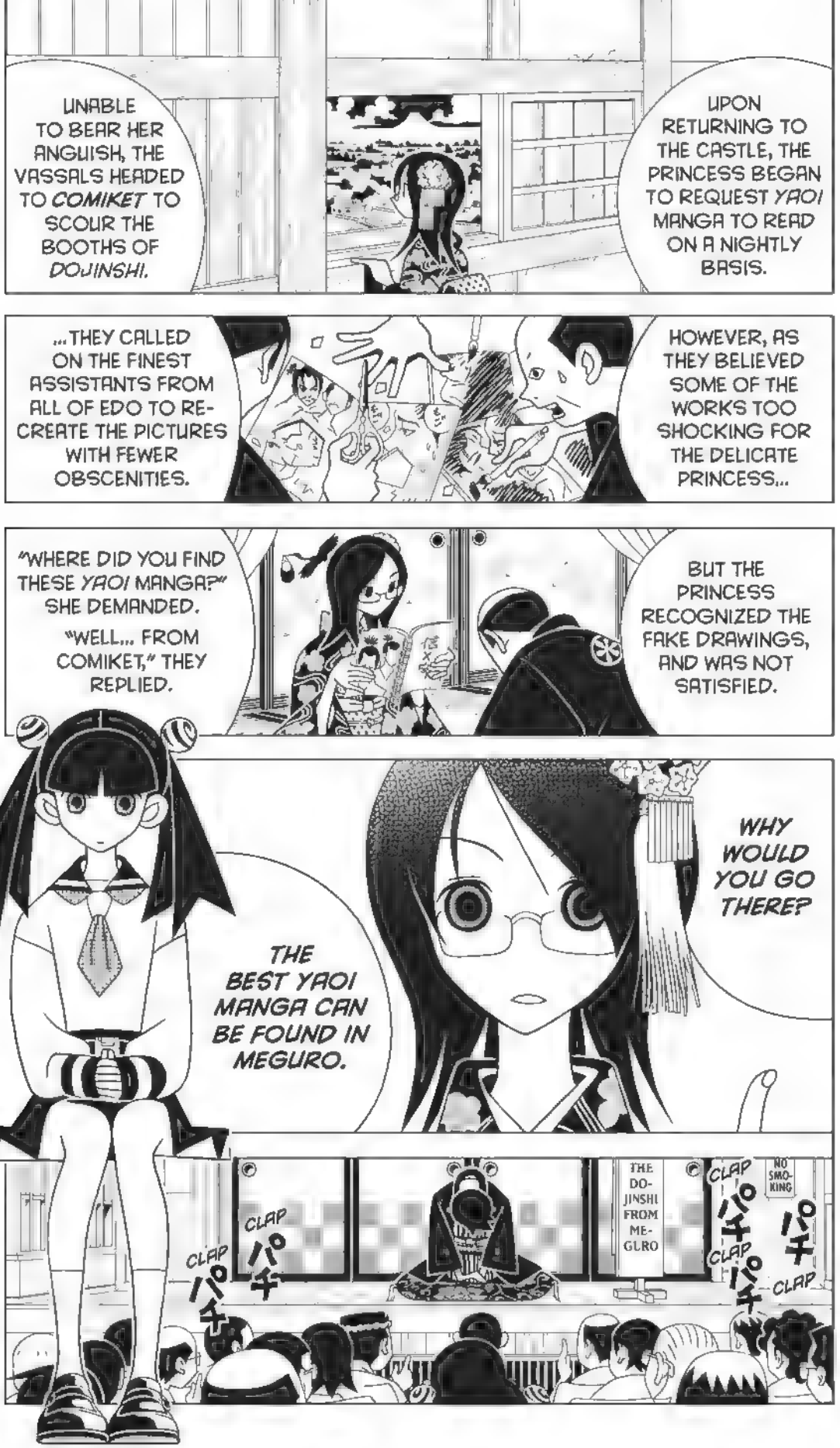
KATTE NI KAIZO
KOISHIKAWA COMEDY HOUSE
RAKUGO
KOISHIKAWA COMEDY HOUSE
IT IS SAID THAT THOSE OF HIGH RANK ARE OFT IGNORANT OF THE WORLD.

AND THIS IS TRUE OF PRINCESSES, MORE THAN ANYONE.
ONE DAY, A PRINCESS REMARKED TO HER VASSALS, "SINCE THE WEATHER IS NICE TODAY, I SHOULD LIKE TO GO LEAF-VIEWING."


...AND TOGETHER THEY LEFT ON A STROLL TO *MEGURO*, NOT FAR FROM HER VILLA.
EDO BAN-ANA
AND JUST LIKE THAT, SHE SUMMONED HER VASSALS WITH BARELY ANY FANFARE...


...AND AS NONE OF HER VASSALS HAD BROUGHT ONE, SHE SOUGHT OUT THE ONLY *SPECIALTY BOOK STORE* IN SIGHT.
本
くっぷ
MEG URO STORE
UNDER A GINGKO TREE, THE PRINCESS WAS STRUCK WITH THE URGE TO READ A BOOK...

TEARING THROUGH EACH BOOK, TO HER VASSALS' DISMAY SHE BECAME A SLAVE TO THE GENRE'S SEDUCTION.
家
信
FOR ADULTS
THE PRINCESS, ACCUSTOMED TO LENGTHY WORKS OF LITERATURE, WAS UNDERSTANDABLY ENRAPTURED BY THE STACKS OF *YAOI MANGA*.


UNABLE TO BEAR HER ANGUISH, THE VASSALS HEADED TO *COMIKET* TO SCOUR THE BOOTHS OF *DOJINSHI*.
UPON RETURNING TO THE CASTLE, THE PRINCESS BEGAN TO REQUEST *YAOI* MANGA TO READ ON A NIGHTLY BASIS.
...THEY CALLED ON THE FINEST ASSISTANTS FROM ALL OF EDO TO RE-CREATE THE PICTURES WITH FEWER OBSCENITIES.
HOWEVER, AS THEY BELIEVED SOME OF THE WORKS TOO SHOCKING FOR THE DELICATE PRINCESS...
"WHERE DID YOU FIND THESE *YAOI* MANGA?" SHE DEMANDED.
"WELL... FROM COMIKET," THEY REPLIED.
BUT THE PRINCESS RECOGNIZED THE FAKE DRAWINGS, AND WAS NOT SATISFIED.
WHY WOULD YOU GO THERE?
THE BEST YAOI MANGA CAN BE FOUND IN MEGURO.
THE DO-JINSHI FROM ME-GURO
NO SMO-KING
CLAP
パチ

OTONASHI-SAN... YOU WERE HERE, TOO?
-CHATTER
ざわ ざわ
IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO TALK AS SMOOTHLY AS THAT.
OH!
PARDON ME... THAT WAS RATHER INSENSITIVE.

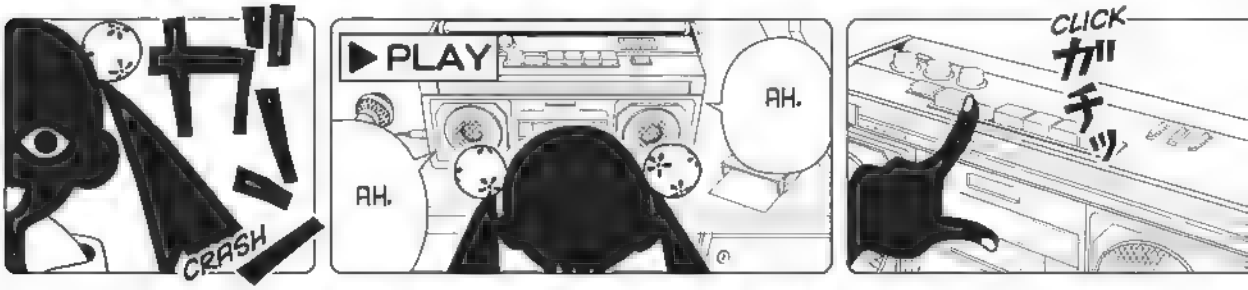
POW
YOU MADE MY MERU-MERU CRY!

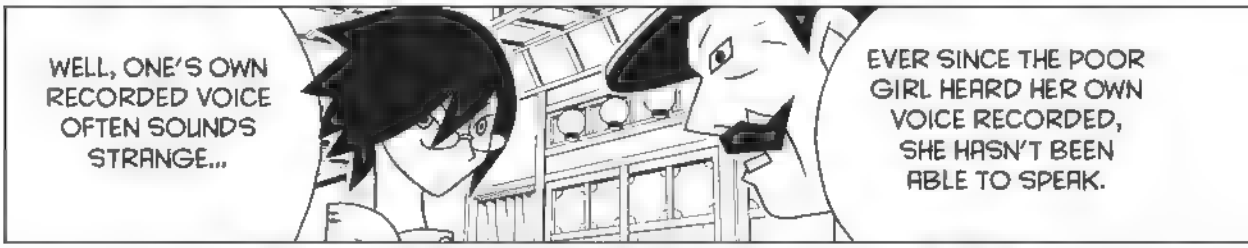
I'M MERU-MERU'S FATHER!
WHO ARE YOU?! WHY DID YOU DO THAT TO ME?
THUMMMP
ぎゃあああ

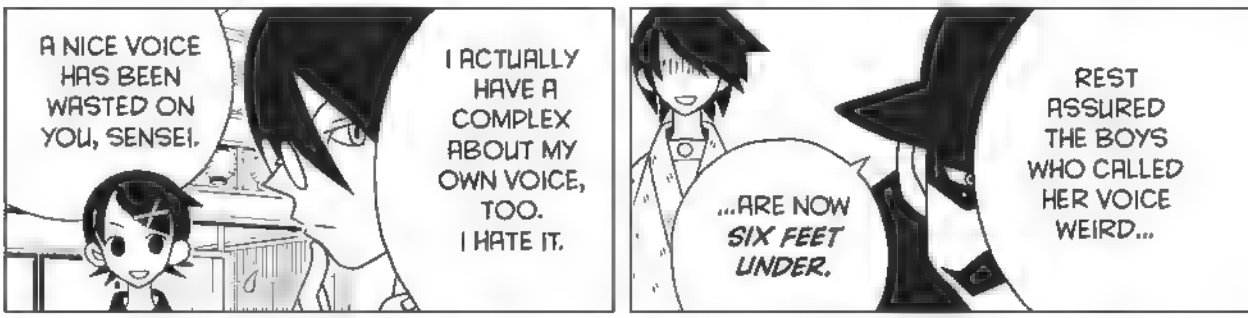
...TO A TRAUMATIZING EXPERIENCE SHE HAD IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
MERU-MERU'S EXTREME SPEECH IMPEDIMENT GOES BACK...
"MERU-MERU"?
MERU-CHAN'S DAD CALLS HER "MERU-MERU."
BLAH
NO
BLAH
NO
BLAH
NO

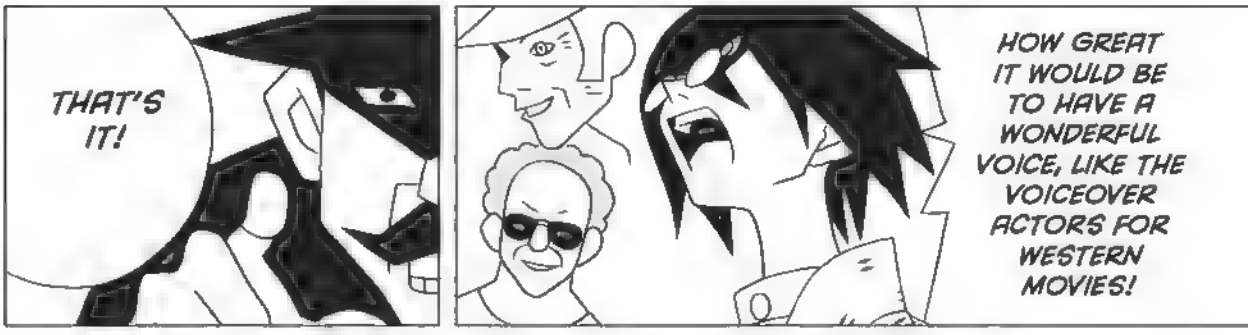
WEIRD VOICE
WEIRD VOICE
WEIRD VOICE
...WITH YOUR VOICE?
OTON-ASHI, WHAT'S WRONG ...
銀
SILVER
金
GOLD

REC
AH.
AH.
CLICK
カチ
とぼ
TAP
とぼ
TAP


ガシ
CRASH
PLAY
AH.
AH.
CLICK
ガチッ


WELL, ONE'S OWN RECORDED VOICE OFTEN SOUNDS STRANGE...
EVER SINCE THE POOR GIRL HEARD HER OWN VOICE RECORDED, SHE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK.

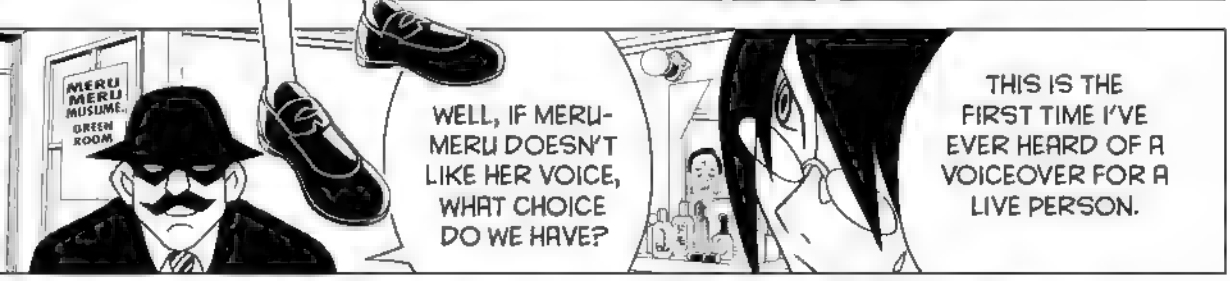

A NICE VOICE HAS BEEN WASTED ON YOU, SENSEI.
I ACTUALLY HAVE A COMPLEX ABOUT MY OWN VOICE, TOO. I HATE IT.
...ARE NOW SIX FEET UNDER.
REST ASSURED THE BOYS WHO CALLED HER VOICE WEIRD...


THAT'S IT!
HOW GREAT IT WOULD BE TO HAVE A WONDERFUL VOICE, LIKE THE VOICEOVER ACTORS FOR WESTERN MOVIES!

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF AUDITION.
WHAT'S WITH THIS CROWD?

HOSTED BY OTONASHI MUSIC
MERU-MERU'S VOICE AUDITIONS
公会堂
AUDITIONS FOR MERU-MERU'S VOICE-OVER.
WHAT'S THIS?

...SUCH AS VOICE ACTORS, ACTORS, OPERA SINGERS, FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY!
MURMUR MURMUR
BY THE POWER OF MONEY AND AUTHORITY, WE HAVE ASSEMBLED THE OWNERS OF BEAUTIFUL VOICES...

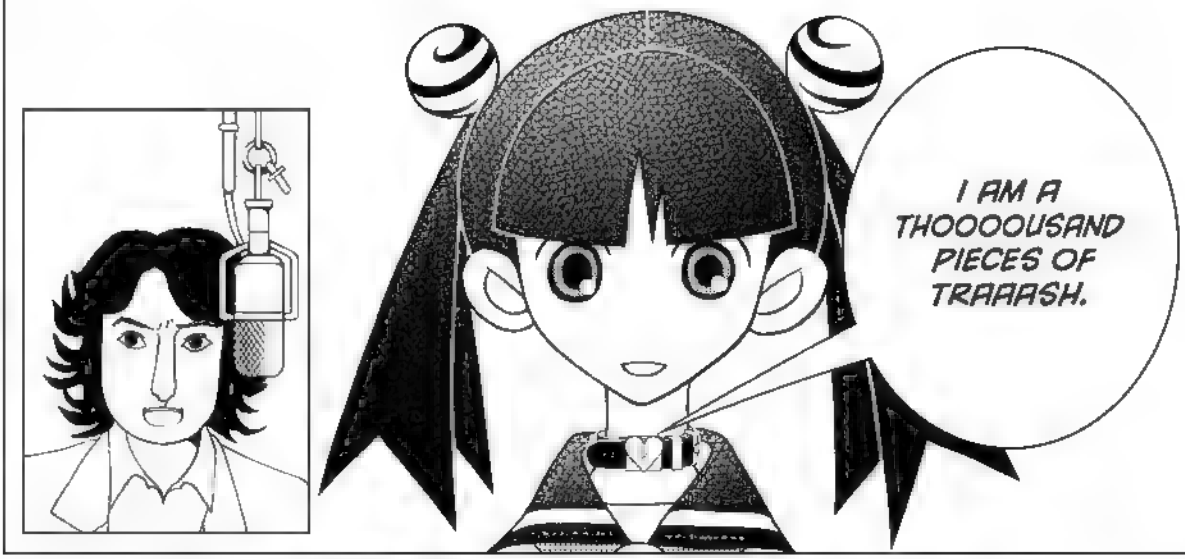

MERU MERU MUSUME GREEN ROOM
WELL, IF MERU-MERU DOESN'T LIKE HER VOICE, WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HEARD OF A VOICEOVER FOR A LIVE PERSON.

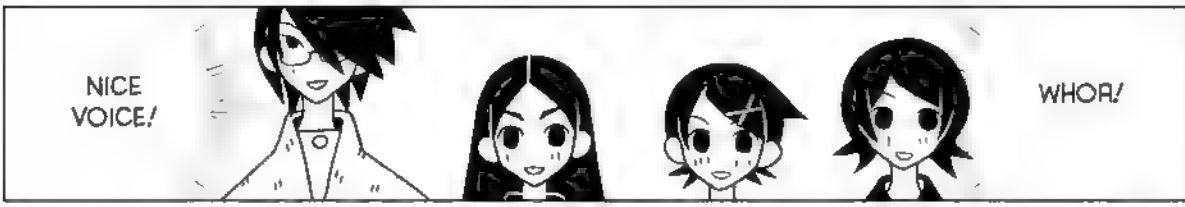
I'M THE TYPE OF MAN WHO WILL GO TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH FOR MY DAUGHTER.
THAT'S NOT HOW TO LOVE A CHILD!

A "VOICE" IS NO EXCEPTION!
I'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN EVERYTHING THAT MERU-MERU HAS EVER WANTED!

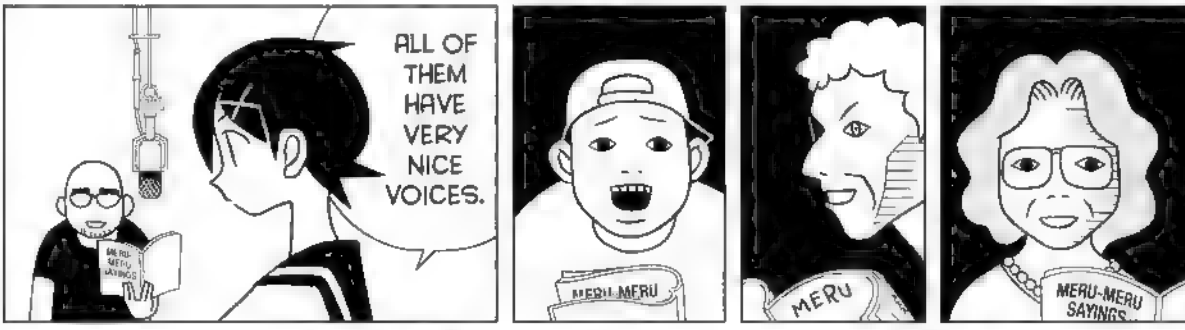
ALRIGHT, FIRST PERSON!
WE'VE ATTACHED A MINIATURE SPEAKER TO HER THROAT.

SHAKE
SHAKE
HAVE YOU APPROVED ALL THIS, MERU-CHAN?


I AM A THOOOOUSAND PIECES OF TRAAASH.


NICE VOICE!
WHOA!

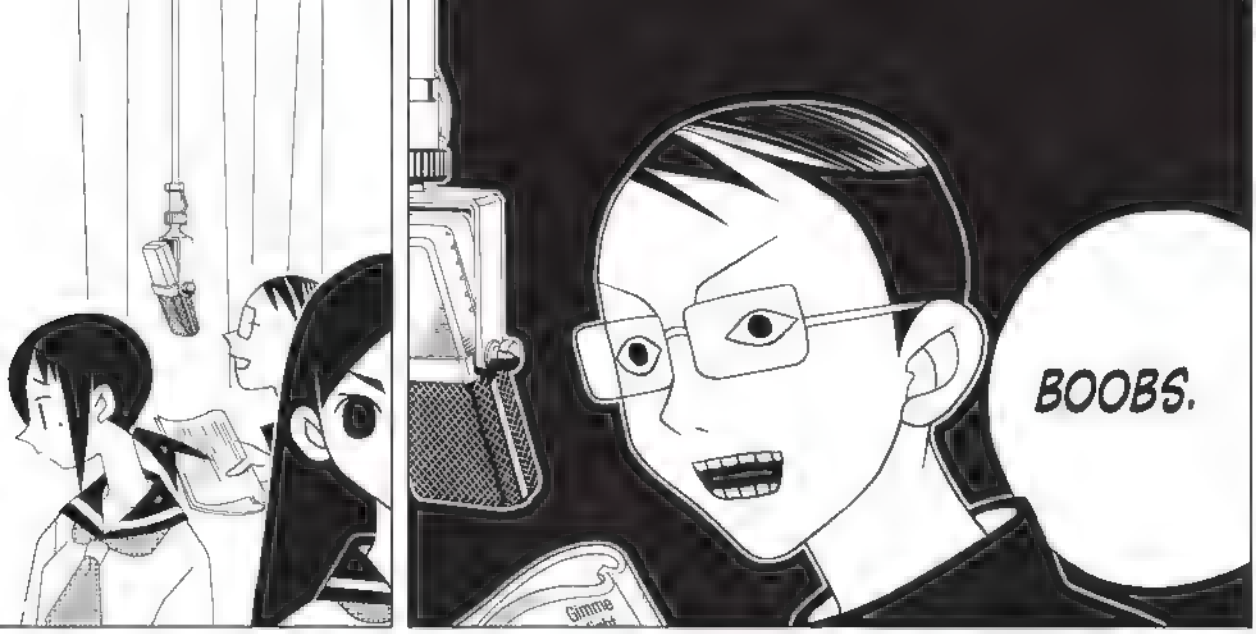
OKAY, NEXT.
That's not the problem, dipshit!
BUT A BIT TOO DEEP, PERHAPS.
SHAKE
SHAKE


ALL OF THEM HAVE VERY NICE VOICES.
MERU-MERU
MERU
MERU-MERU SAYINGS

THAT COULD BE FUN.
WHAT?
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GIVE IT A TRY?
BUT NONE OF THEM IS EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

Hell no. I'm not going.
OH... THAT'S NOT BAD.
HOSTED BY OTONASHI MUSIC
I, MERU-CHAN, WILL GO BUY A BRA IN SHIBUYA AGAIN NEXT WEEK.
Don't use my name in stupid puns. I'll rip your tongue out.
THAT'S GOOD IN A VERY NORMAL SORT OF WAY.
MY NAME IS MERU...
...AND I FEEL MERU-VELOUS!
FEELINGS OF ADOLESCENCE
MERU OTONASHI
EACH OF YOU IS GOOD ENOUGH THAT IT'S HARD TO CHOOSE.
IF YOU CAN READ IT NORMALLY, THEN YOU WIN!
EVERYONE, THIS PAGE IS LIKE A LITMUS TEST.
ぶぶぶん
SHAKE SHAKE
THAT COULD WORK!
SO MAYBE WE COULD JUST USE ALL OF YOU AND HAVE YOU ROTATE!

AT LAST, MY TYPE!
OH MAN! THIS THING WON'T COME OFF!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY...!
DASH
HOSTED BY OTONASHI MUSIC
MERU-MERU'S VOICE AUDITI
BOKUJO
I'M JUST GOING TO PUT THIS WET SHIRT ON YOU.
IT'S OKAY. DON'T BE SCARED.
HER VOICE IS A DEAL BREAKER!
SHATTER
BOOBS.


BOOBS.

ESCAPE

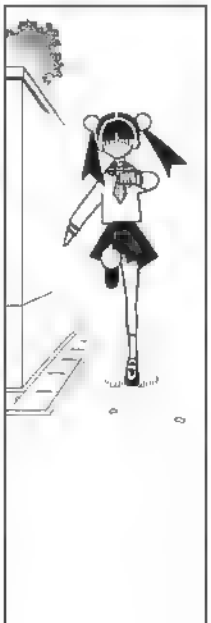
...THAT HIS WORDS SAVED MERU OTONASHI.
IT WOULD NEVER BE REVEALED...

BUT I...
...CAN ONLY SAY NORMAL THINGS.

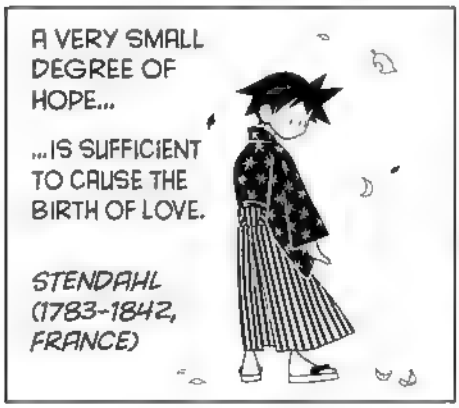
WHAT...? ME?
YOU'RE NOT GONNA TRY, KAFUKA-CHAN?
HOSTED BY
MERU-MERU'S

GLARE

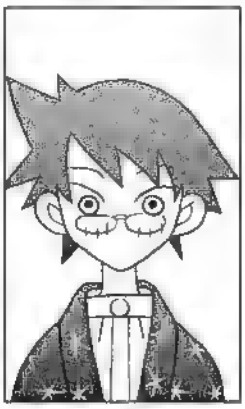
CLUNK

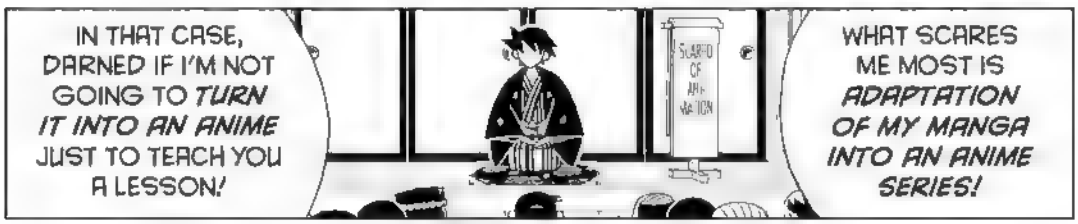


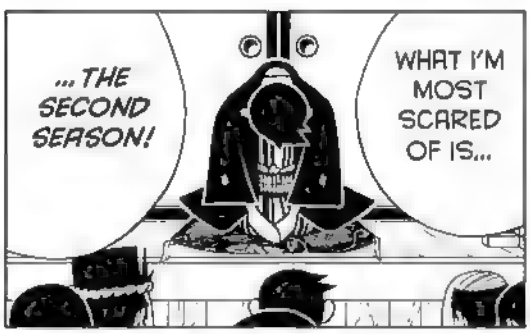
I LIKE YOU.
King at? You brat!!!!

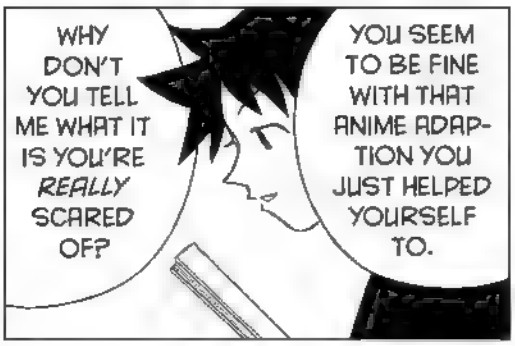

A VERY SMALL DEGREE OF HOPE...
...IS SUFFICIENT TO CAUSE THE BIRTH OF LOVE.
STENDAHL (1783-1842, FRANCE)

DASH
NOOO-OOO!



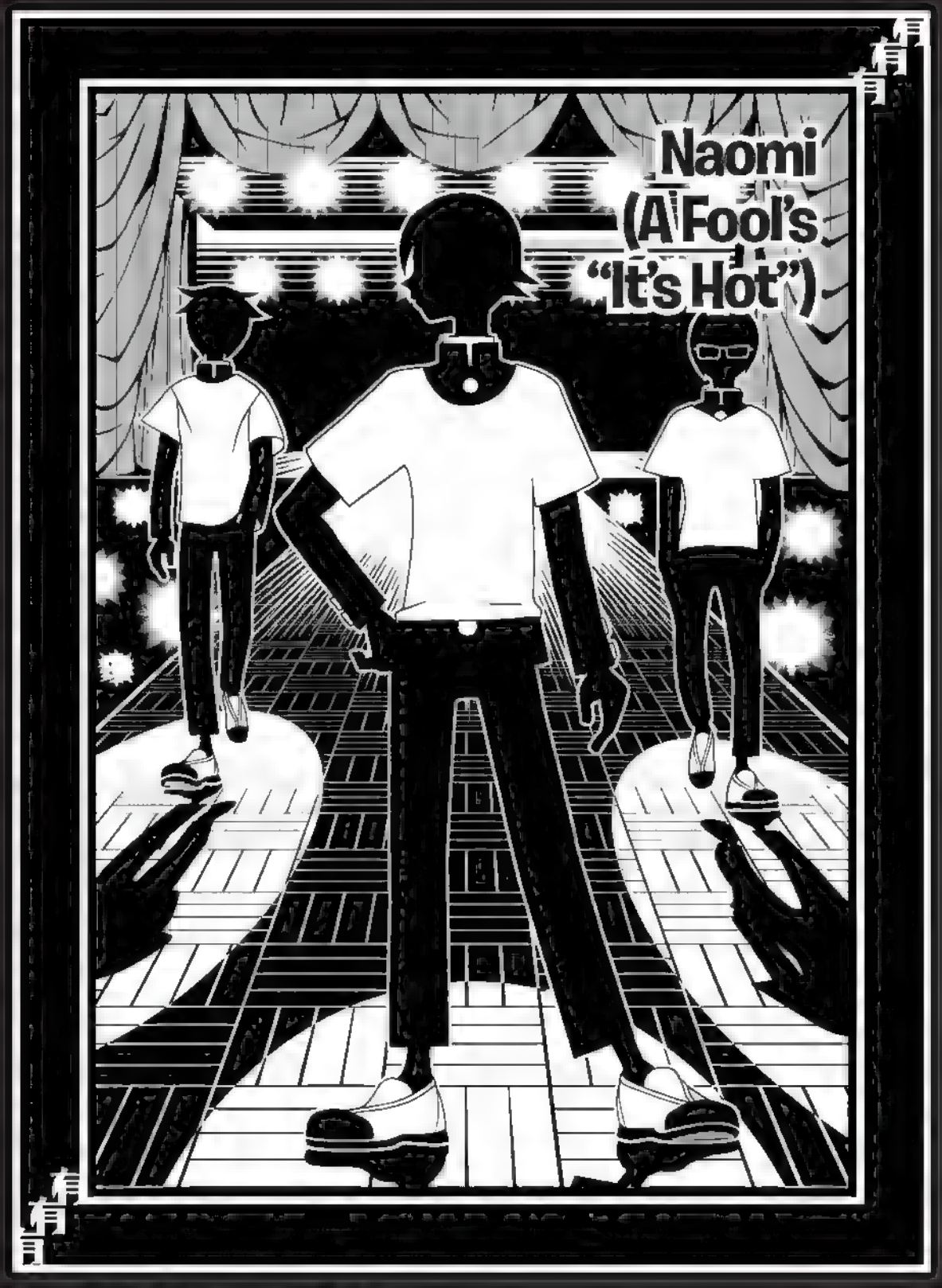

IN THAT CASE, DARNED IF I'M NOT GOING TO TURN IT INTO AN ANIME JUST TO TEACH YOU A LESSON!
WHAT SCARES ME MOST IS ADAPTATION OF MY MANGA INTO AN ANIME SERIES!


...THE SECOND SEASON!
WHAT I'M MOST SCARED OF IS...


WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU'RE REALLY SCARED OF?
YOU SEEM TO BE FINE WITH THAT ANIME ADAPTION YOU JUST HELPED YOURSELF TO.

I'M SCARED OF THE SHOGAKUKAN MANGA PRIZE.
I'M SCARED OF TV DRAMAS.
I'M SCARED OF THE THIRD SEASON.

I'M SCARED OF MY FINAL HOUR.



CHAPTER 113

WATCH OUT...
...FOR "IT'S HOT" SCAMS AROUND TOWN.
NOTIFICATIONS
To discuss Fatal screen in 2nd season
"IT'S HOT" SCAMS?
HUH?
...WHEN ANY FOOL CAN SEE THAT THEY ARE, IN FACT, NOT!
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DECLARING THINGS "HOT"...

CAN WE GIVE YOU A FUN HAIR-STYLE?
LA♪
るー
LA LA
るるるる
LA-LA
YOU'RE A VICTIM OF AN "IT'S HOT" SCAM.

A-HA-HA-HA
あはは
THIS IS A LITTLE TOO MUCH, ISN'T IT?

I THINK IT'S *HOT.*

...IS ACTUALLY HOT.
THIS LOOK...
...KINDA HOT.
IT IS...
.....
HOT HOT HOT HOT.
TOTALLY HOT.
HOT HOT.
IT'S HOT.
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
HMPH
NO WAY...
not'shair
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WHAT KIND OF HAIRSTYLE IS THAT!?
PLEASE REMEMBER SHE IS A VICTIM.

THAT'S THE NATURE OF AN "IT'S HOT" SCAM!

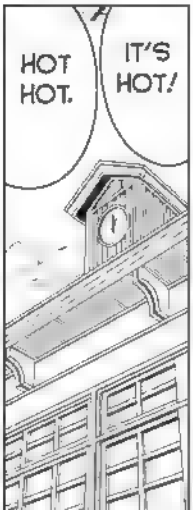
...EVEN THOUGH ANY NORMAL PERSON WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE OTHERWISE.
ONE IRRESPONSIBLE PERSON TOLD HER IT WAS "HOT" IN ORDER TO SPREAD HIS MINI-PROPAGANDA...

NOT HOT!
RMPH
STAR
MAYBE BY WEARING A T-SHIRT ON TOP?

HOW CAN WE DRESS DOWN OUR UNIFORMS TO MAKE THEM LOOK COOLER?

THAT'S HOT.

.....


HOT HOT.
IT'S HOT!

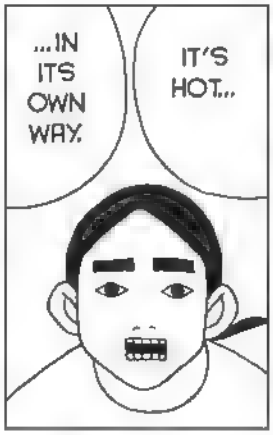
MAYBE IT IS HOT.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

NOW
Woman
STAR
YOU'RE IN DANGEROUS TERRITORY.
KIND OF LIKE THEY'RE IN SOME EXCLUSIVE CLUB.
I ACTUALLY DON'T THINK IT'S THAT STRANGE.
NOT HOT!!
...LOSE THEIR WAY AND BECOME ACCOMPLICES TO "IT'S HOT" SCAMS!
FROM TIME TO TIME THOSE WHO WALK THE CUTTING EDGE OF FASHION...
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'LL START THINKING OF IT AS HOT!
• WEARING GLASSES LIKE THIS
• ARMPIT ART
• BRAS OVER CLOTHING
ANY NORMAL PERSON CAN SEE THAT THESE THINGS ARE NOT HOT!
THAT DRAWING'S NOT HOT.
NOT HOT.
...ARE DIVERSIFYING THEIR METHODS BEYOND FASHION!
AND NOW "IT'S HOT" SCAMS ...

Boing Boy
GANG LEADER EDITION

.....

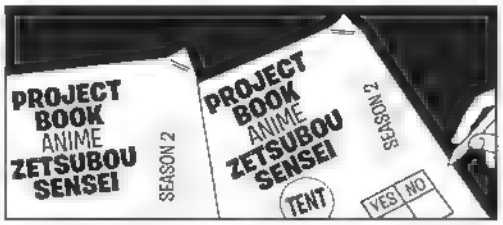
...KINDA HOT.
IT IS...


...IN ITS OWN WAY.
IT'S HOT...

TOTALLY HOT.

NOT HOT!
ADULT SECTION

HOT HOT HOT!
HOT HOT!


PROJECT BOOK ANIME ZETSUBOU SENSEI
SEASON 2
PROJECT BOOK ANIME ZETSUBOU SENSEI
SEASON 2
TENT
YES NO

NOT HOT AT ALL!
PLANNING MEETING
STAR CHILD
NOT HOT!

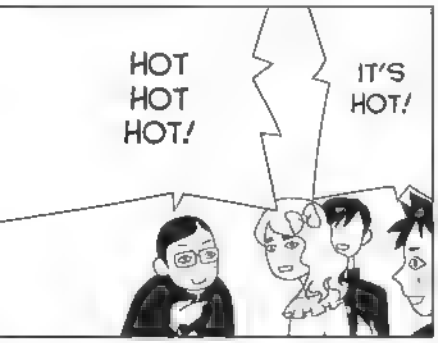
MAYBE IT IS HOT.
.....
.....

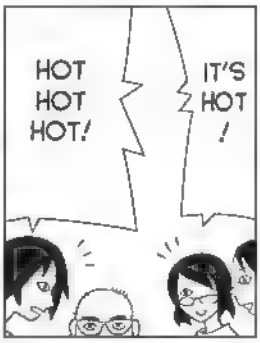
HOT HOT HOT HOT!
PLANNING ZETSUBOU
IT'S HOT! HOT!

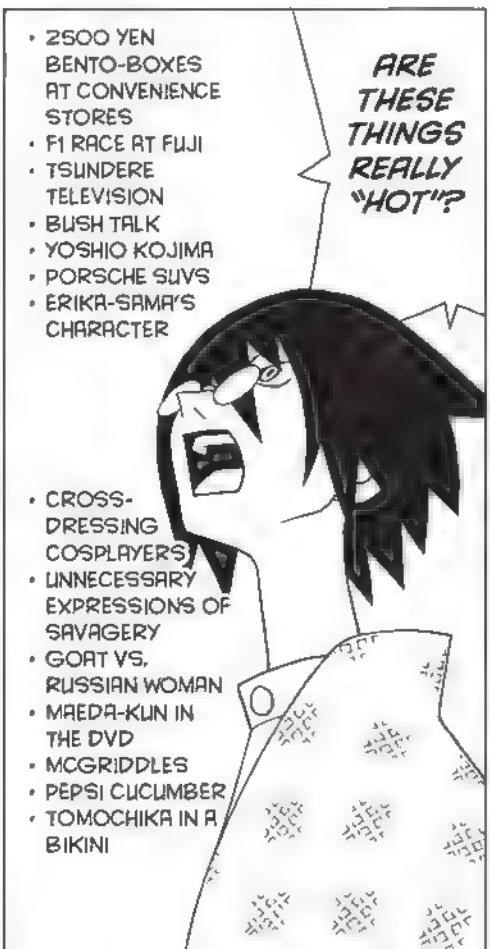
I THINK IT'S HOT.

MAEDAXG

Great






ARE THESE THINGS REALLY "HOT"?
• 2500 YEN BENTO-BOXES AT CONVENIENCE STORES
• F1 RACE AT FUJI
• TSUNDERE TELEVISION
• BUSH TALK
• YOSHIO KOJIMA
• PORSCHE SUVS
• ERIKA-SAMA'S CHARACTER
• CROSS-DRESSING COSPLAYERS
• UNNECESSARY EXPRESSIONS OF SAVAGERY
• GOAT VS. RUSSIAN WOMAN
• MAEDA-KUN IN THE DVD
• MCGRIDDLES
• PEPSI CUCUMBER
• TOMOCHIKA IN A BIKINI

SENSEI.
WOULD LOVE BETWEEN A TEACHER AND STUDENT BE HOT?
ERP
NO, IT WOULDN'T.
NOT HOT AT ALL.
IT WOULDN'T BE HOT AT ALL.
.....
I THINK...
...IT WOULD BE HOT.

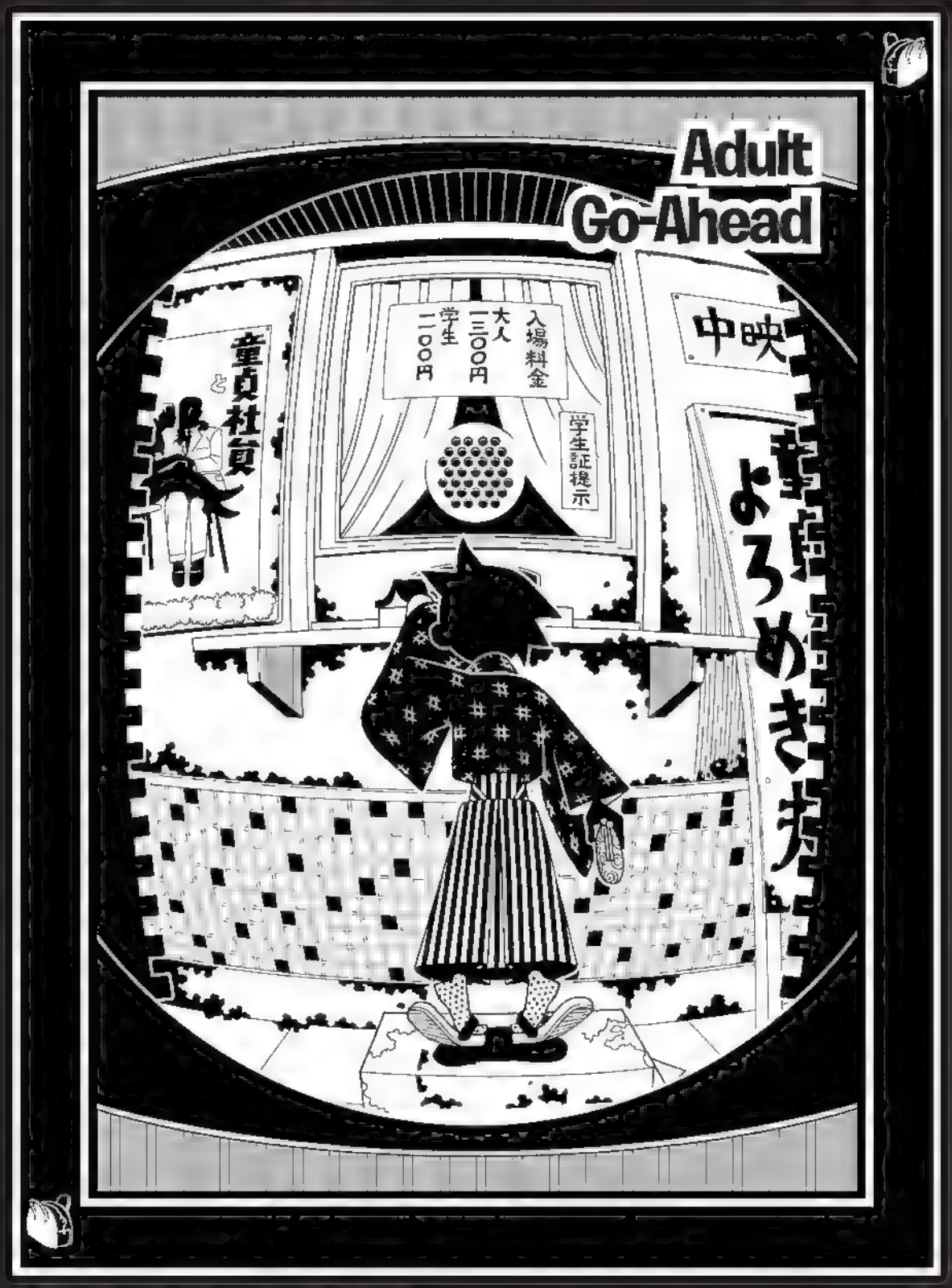
DEFINITELY HOT.
IT WOULD BE KINDA HOT...
.....
HOT HOT HOT!
HOT HOT!
IT WOULD BE HOT.
...IT WOULD BE HOT?
SO YOU THINK...
...BE HOT OR NOT?
WOULD A PAIRING BETWEEN ME AND SENSEI...

THAT WOULDN'T BE HOT.
NO WAY...
NOT HOT!
...IT WOULD BE HOT.
HOT HOT!
TOTALLY HOT.
STEAMING HOT!
I THINK IT WOULD BE HOT.
...IT WOULD BE HOT?
SO YOU THINK...
SPLASH
ざざーん

ABSO-LUTELY HOT.
TO-TALLY HOT.
...ABOUT A NORMAL PAIRING WITH ME?
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY...
HOT HOT HOT.
TO-TALLY HOT.
...AN ADULT-EROUS PAIRING WITH ME?
WELL THEN WHAT ABOUT...
TOTALLY HOT!
HOT!
HOT!
HOT!
HOT!
HOT!
HOT!
WELL THEN, WHAT ABOUT...
...A METICULOUSLY CRAFTED PAIRING WITH ME?

*THE TOP CHARACTERS ARE CHIRI'S NAME. THE BOTTOM CHARACTER MEANS "TO BURY." MARIA THINKS SHE HAS LEARNED THE IDEOGRAMMIC ORIGINS OF THIS CHINESE CHARACTER.

HOT!
HOT!
HOT!
NOT
HOT.
NOT
HOT.
FEVER
HOT!
HOT!
HOT!
HOT!
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
YOUR
CRITERIA!
NOT
HOT.
NOT
HOT
AT ALL.



CHAPTER 114

HIDAMARI
BATHS
飛騨毬湯
WOMEN'S BATHS
女湯
SIZZLE
カポーン
MEN'S

STOP TREATING ME LIKE A KID!
IT'S A REALITY SHOW I PRODUCED TO DOCUMENT MAJIRU'S ADULT TREATMENT.
MAJIRU GETS TREATED LIKE AN ADULT
WELL THEN, WILL MAJIRU-KUN SUCCEED IN BEING TREATED LIKE AN ADULT?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
LIVE
DUM-
DUM-
DUM-
DUM

HI THERE, MAJIRU-KUN.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A COFFEE?
LIVE
COFFEE
キラン
SHIMMER
COFFEE OF THE WORLD
BLACK
SUGAR-LESS
I GUESS THIS QUALIFIES ...
...AS BEING TREATED LIKE AN ADULT.

OTONA NO FURIKAKE
HE EATS RICE WITH OTONA NO FURIKAKE*.
HE HOLDS HIS FIRST 10,000 YEN BILL.
THUMP THUMP
どきどき
BABY CHAIR
HE SITS IN A NORMAL CHAIR.
HE GOES TO SEE A PLAY BY OTONA KEIKAKU**.

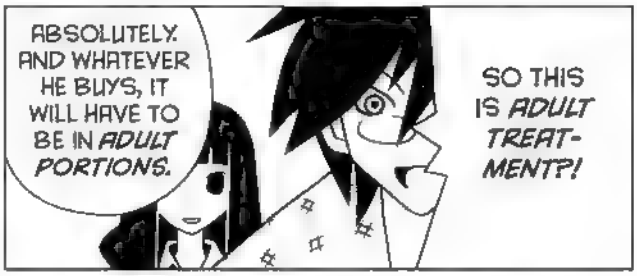
*LITERALLY "ADULT SEASONING" **LITERALLY "ADULT PROJECT" (NAME OF ACTING GROUP)

LET HIM VISIT AN ADULT ESTAB-LISHMENT.
HE WANTS TO BE TREATED LIKE AN ADULT.
ISN'T THIS TREATMENT A LITTLE TOO ADULT FOR MAJIRU?

STOP SPEAK-ING BASED ON CON-JECTURE!
...THE WAY THEY DO TO YOU!
AT THE VERY LEAST MAYBE THE GIRLS INSIDE WON'T TREAT HIM LIKE A LITTLE CHILD...
HO HO HO HO

HE WANTS TRADING CARDS.
HA HA... HE'S STILL A CHILD AFTER ALL.
LIVE
POCKET MONSTER CARDS 2.0
CARD COLLECTION
TOYS GAMES
GUN GRIFFO
BOX
BOM-CHIKA-WAWA
TV ANIMA
LEAH DIZON
1BOX
60PACKS
ALL100 POSES
CARD

AND ON THE TV SHOW...


ABSOLUTELY. AND WHATEVER HE BUYS, IT WILL HAVE TO BE IN *ADULT PORTIONS.*
SO THIS IS *ADULT TREATMENT?!*

...ACTUALLY *BEING TREATED LIKE AN ADULT* IS ALMOST ALWAYS A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE.
HMM... WHILE I UNDERSTAND WANTING TO BE TREATED LIKE AN ADULT...
2008

...WE EXPECT THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ADULT TREATMENT TO OCCUR!
• HE'LL BE MADE TO EAT *HOYA* ("SEA SQUIRTS")
• HE'LL BE MADE TO EAT *SARA-AI* ("BLOODY FISHMEAT")
• HE'LL BE MADE TO EAT A HAMBURGER WITH *PONZU* MIXED WITH GRATED DAIKON
• HE WON'T BE ALLOWED TO RIDE ON THE RIDES AT DISNEYLAND
• HE WON'T BE ALLOWED TO REACT TO EVERY CAT HE SEES
• HE'LL BE MADE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH A WOMAN FROM WORK
• HE'LL BE MADE TO WEAR SEE-THROUGH SOCKS
• HE WON'T BE ALLOWED TO BUY ANYTHING BUT ELECTRONICS AT AKIHABARA
• HE'LL BE MADE TO READ MANGA SPEECH BUBBLES WITHOUT *KANA* READINGS FOR THE *KANJI*
• HE'LL BE THE VICTIM OF *OYAJI-GARI* ("OLD MAN HUNTING")
• HE'LL TURN ON KODOMO NO JIKAN DURING ADULTS' TIME
• HE'LL BE INTERVIEWED BY OTONA ANIME

OR WHEN THE SUMMER VACATION YOU RECEIVE FROM YOUR COMPANY ACTUALLY MEANS SOMETHING ELSE!
OR HAVING THE FUNNIEST PART OF YOUR MANGA NIXED DUE TO THE SENSITIVITIES OF ADULT SOCIETY!
WHAT!
THESE RELIGIOUS JOKES ARE TOO CONTROVERSIAL.
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
LIKE BEING EXPECTED TO ACT LIKE AN ADULT IN THE FACE OF UNREASONABLE REQUESTS!
WHY AREN'T THE OPENING PAGES OF MY MANGA IN COLOR?!
I'M IN DESPAIR OVER SUCH ADULT TREATMENT!
I'M IN DESPAIR!
• YOUR PIMPLES ARE NOW SIGNS OF A SKIN DISEASE
• YOU NEVER GET BALLOONS ANYMORE
• YOU CAN'T ORDER FROM CHILDREN'S MENUS
• YOU NO LONGER QUALIFY FOR PRIORITY SEATING ON LIFEBOATS
• NO ONE GIVES YOU SYRUPY COUGH MEDICINE
• YOU ONLY GET ONE ASSIGNED EDITOR
• EVEN THOUGH YOUR PARTNER FOR A GROUP DIALOGUE CANCELS ON YOU, YOU ACT LIKE AN ADULT AND PRETEND IT'S NOTHING FOR THE MAKE-UP INTERVIEW, AND YOU EVEN ACT LIKE AN ADULT WHEN THEY MISSPELL YOUR NAME
THERE'S NOTHING FUN ABOUT BEING TREATED LIKE AN ADULT!
SHIBUYA STORE
OH!
LOOK.
LIVE
SHIBUYA

We come to you.
For NuBra and fake nipples, please ask
HI THERE, LITTLE GIRL.
CRASH
WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE A LITTLE OLDER?
DASH
All the bras are too big for me!
I GUESS THAT'S EVEN WORSE... GETTING TREATED LIKE A KID EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD HELP MERU-MERU BE TREATED LIKE AN ADULT, TOO?
EEEP!
HO HO... THIS MAY GET INTERESTING.

...LET'S KEEP WATCHING FOR A BIT FIRST.
BIRTH-DAYS
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
MERU MERU BIRTHDAY PARTY 17
Stop treating me like a kid, dipshit moustache hat!
SHE CLAIMS THAT MY SLIGHTLY OVER-DONE DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION AMOUNT TO TREATING HER LIKE A CHILD, AND SHE SENT ME THIS TEXT!

TOY SALES
LOOK! AN ADULT IS BUYING A TOY!

STOP SAYING "ADULT TOY"!!
IS IT AN ADULT TOY?!

DOES THAT MEAN IT'S AN ADULT TOY?!

I WOULD NEVER TREAT YOU LIKE A CHILD.
はあはあ
PANT PANT
OF COURSE I'LL TREAT YOU LIKE AN ADULT.

I WAS TREATED LIKE AN ADULT TOO!

WHAT... YOU WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE AN ADULT TOO?
THIS IS BAD! RUN!

WHO'S THAT? HE'S AWESOME!
LIVE
KEEP YOUR DEVIATIONS TO THE SECOND DIMENSION!
POW
ゴウッ
WHOA!
THE STAIRCASE OF ADULTHOOD.
HERE IT IS! RIGHT THIS WAY!
I THOUGHT YOU HATED ADULT TREATMENT.
NO FAIR! I WANT TO CLIMB THE STAIRCASE OF ADULTHOOD TOO!
THE FAMOUS STAIRCASE OF ADULTHOOD?
3F HARDWAR SALES
BEING ALLOWED TO CARRY A KNIFE MEANS YOU'RE AN ADULT!
...I'VE BEEN TREATED LIKE A CHILD QUITE FREQUENTLY THESE DAYS.
ACTUALLY, THOUGH DIFFERENT FROM WHAT RIN MENTIONED BEFORE...
TREATED LIKE A CHILD BY THE INDIANS IN A CURRY RESTAURANT
WANT SOME YOGURT?
THE JANITOR MOVED THE UFO MACHINE SO IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR ME TO CATCH SOMETHING
J YAOI
I WAS GIVEN BIDAN MAGAZINE TO READ AT THE BARBERSHOP

WELCOME.
MY NAME IS KITSU, AND I'LL BE ASSISTING YOU TODAY.
KNIVES CAN BE DANGEROUS IF YOU USE THEM INCORRECTLY.
THE INSTRUCTOR WILL TEACH YOU ABOUT PROPER HANDLING.
WAAAAAAH
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT'S HOW ADULTS USE KNIVES!
I CAN'T BELIEVE ...
BROADCAST INTERRUPTED
...MEANS YOU'RE AN ADULT!
BEING ALLOWED TO HANDLE FIRE...
BROADCAST INTERRUPTED
CAMP BARBEQUE
CHAKKARI-SAN
LIVE DEMONSTRATION!
GIMME A LIGHT

YES.
DRU
SALI
THE DRUG DEPART-MENT!
VOOOOSH
ぼぼぼぼ
IS THAT... IS THAT HOW ADULTS USE FIRE?!
WHAT'S WRONG... ...WITH ADULTS!?
THIS IS HOW ADULTS USE BANDAGES.
PHEW, I MADE IT TO THE ROOF!
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU CAN'T RIDE YET.
ROLLER COASTER
AND LOOK... THEY HAVE A ROLLER-COAST-ER!
I WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE AN ADULT!
BUT I'LL GO ON IT!
TO ALL CHILDREN, NO ONE UNDER THIS HEIGHT MAY RIDE.
CHIL-DREN UNDER THIS HEIGHT MAY NOT RIDE.
THEY HAVE A HEIGHT RESTRIC-TION!

MAY RIDE.
WHAT A PITY.
CHIL-
DREN
UNDE
TH
HE

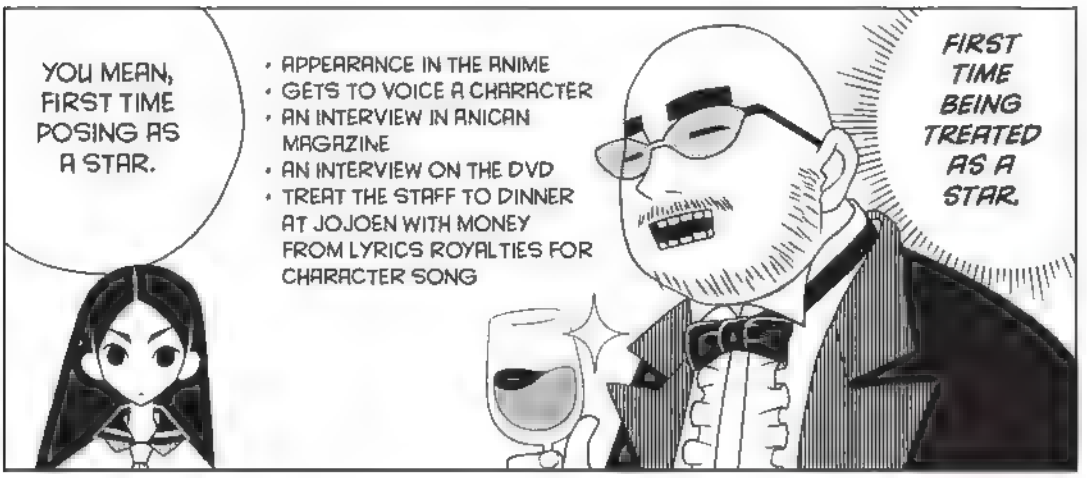
SENSEI, IF YOU REALLY WANT...
THIS HEIGHT MAY RIDE.
I DE-MAND TO BE TREAT-ED LIKE AN ADULT!

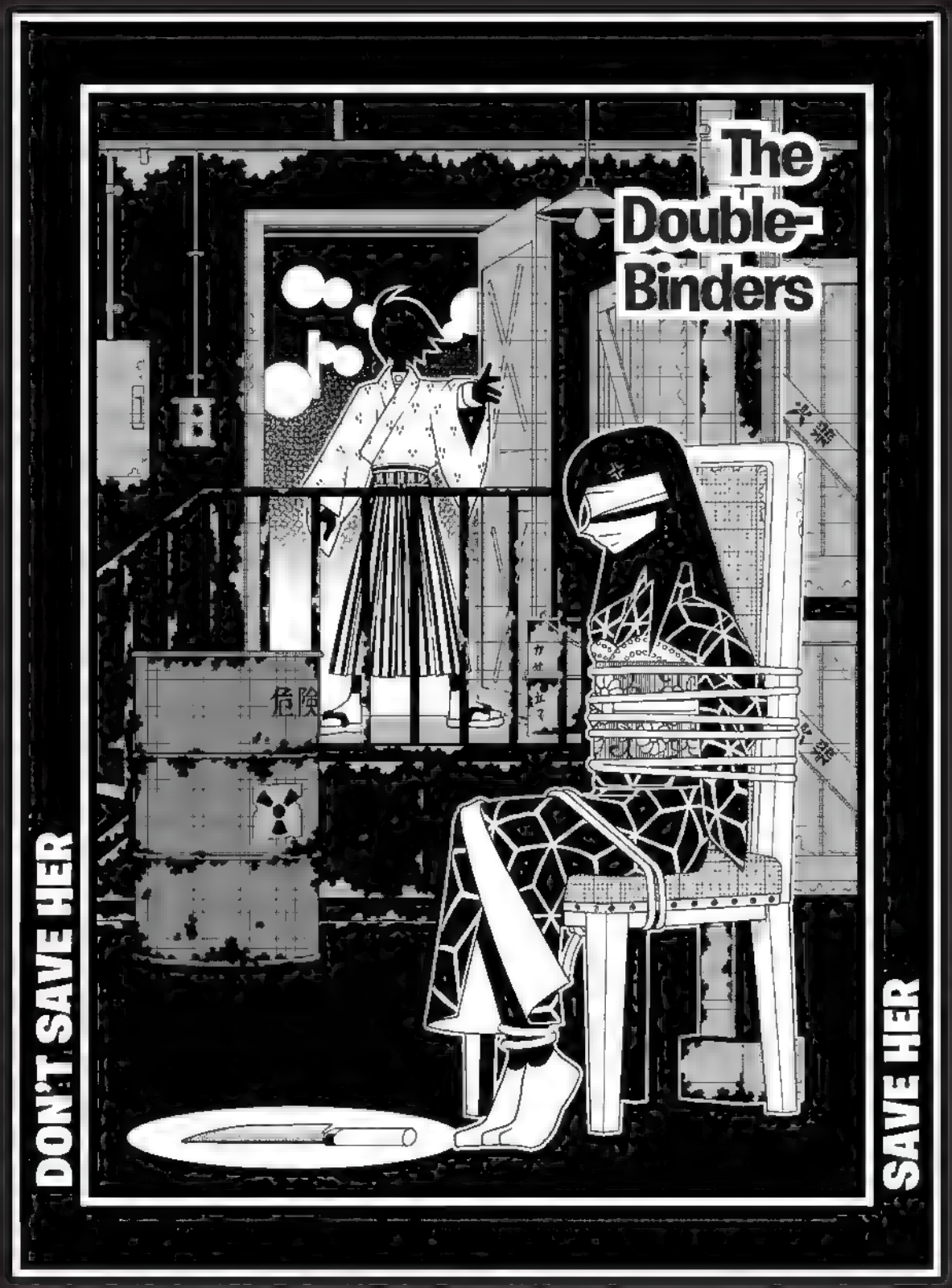
WHAT KIND OF ROLLER-COASTER IS THIS!?
NO ONE UNDER TWO METERS TALL CAN RIDE THIS ROLLER-COASTER.

ADULT TREAT-MENT!
ARRGHH

PETER PAN?
I NEVER WANT TO GROW UP.

...YOU CAN STRETCH YOURSELF OUT A LITTLE.


YOU MEAN, FIRST TIME POSING AS A STAR.
• APPEARANCE IN THE ANIME
• GETS TO VOICE A CHARACTER
• AN INTERVIEW IN ANICAN MAGAZINE
• AN INTERVIEW ON THE DVD
• TREAT THE STAFF TO DINNER AT JOJOEN WITH MONEY FROM LYRICS ROYALTIES FOR CHARACTER SONG
FIRST TIME BEING TREATED AS A STAR.



CHAPTER 115

SHIBUYA
PSYCHIC RESEARCH
KOISHIKAWA
2F
SPECIALTY STORE
COOKIE MONSTER
HALLOWEEN FAIR
ハロウィンフェア
GOLDEN GINZA
SHOPPING ARCADE
HAUN-TED APART-MENT
CONTACT "JIM"
APARTMENT RENTAL
HAUNTED
CONTACT "JIM"
HALLOWEEN FAIR
SALE
HALLOWEEN FAIR
TRICK OR TREAT??
FIRST TIME BEING DUBBED AS AN ADULT

I DON'T WANT EITHER!
YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE. THAT'S WHAT HALLOWEEN IS ABOUT.
I HATE MYSELF FOR BEING SUCKERED INTO GIVING AWAY CANDY...
...AND I HATE MY-SELF FOR FALLING PREY TO TRICKERY!
IT'S TRULY A DOUBLE BIND!
I AM STUPID
SNICKER SNICKER
DO BANANAS COUNT AS CANDY?
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE TO WIN IN THIS SITUATION!

double bind

-noun

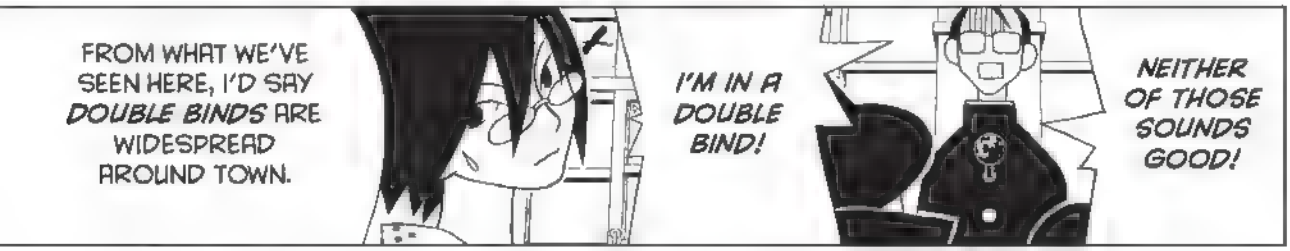
1. Psychology

WHAT'S A DOUBLE BIND?
IT'S A *DILEMMA* WHEREIN IF ONE OPTION IS REALIZED...
...THE OTHER OPTION BECOMES PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO REALIZE.
...BUT IF I DO TREAT IT, IT WILL HURT DURING THE PROCEDURE.
THROB
ヒカ"
THROB
ヒカ"
HEH HEH
IF I DON'T TREAT IT, IT WILL CONTINUE TO HURT...
FOR EXAMPLE, MY CAVITY.
...AND ARE UNABLE TO MAKE A MOVE.
IT REFERS TO A SITUATION WHERE YOU'VE BEEN DOUBLY BOUND...

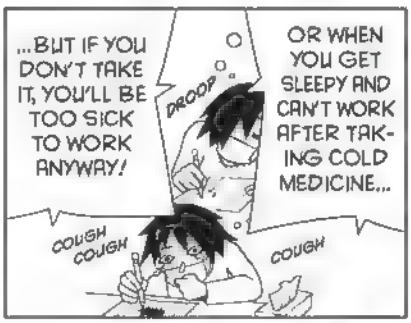
...BUT IF YOU DO WORK, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'VE COMPROMISED YOURSELF!
LIKE HOW IF YOU DON'T WORK, YOU'RE TREATED LIKE A LOSER...
BUT I PLAN TO WORK...
THAT'S YOUR DOUBLE BIND!
YOU WERE HERE?
THE WHOLE TIME.
...BUT YOU CAN'T BECAUSE IF YOU GET WITHIN 100 METERS OF HIM YOU'LL BE ARRESTED!
OR LIKE HOW YOU WANT TO GET CLOSE TO SOMEONE BECAUSE YOU LOVE HIM...
I HAVE YET TO RECEIVE ANY COURT ORDERS FOR THIS LOVE!
THAT'S YOUR DOUBLE BIND!

IF I CHOOSE THIS SIDE...
DON'T MARK OR SMUGGLE IN SUSPICIOUS PERSONS
...THEN I'LL LOSE THIS SIDE.
IS THIS A DOUBLE BIND?!
NOW NOW, YOU TWO. THAT'S ENOUGH...
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, SENSEI?
SAI-YUKI
WHAT A FRIGHTENING HOLIDAY IT IS.
TO BE FORCED INTO SUCH A ZERO-SUM TYPE OF GAME ...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE DONE SOMETHING AWFUL...
HALLOWEEN IS A RATHER FRIGHTENING HOLIDAY, ISN'T IT?
BUT IN THE SPIRIT OF HALLOWEEN, MAYBE THERE'S A WAY OUT...
HMM... IF THOSE ARE MY ONLY TWO CHOICES, I CAN SEE THE DILEMMA.
...WOULD I PREFER A TRICK, OR A TREAT, HUH?
SO THE QUESTION IS...
TRICK...
TREAT...
I KNOW!!

I'LL GIVE YOU A TREAT, SO LET ME PLAY A TRICK ON YOU.
ERP.
I'VE WITNESSED A SEX OFFENSE! CALL 110!
THAT'S A CRIME!
I WASN'T GOING TO PLAY AN ADULT TYPE OF TRICK...
Y-YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
WHAT KIND OF "TRICK" WERE YOU GOING TO PLAY ON HER?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! IT'S A NEW VERSION OF HALLOWEEN BASED ON A FAIR EXCHANGE!
CREAK
REPLACE HER HAIR-TIES WITH BEAN PASTE BUNS
LAMINATE HER CELL PHONE
SECRETLY SWITCH HER INDOOR SHOES WITH ONES THAT MAKE NOISE
TWEET
...JUST SOMETHING LIKE THIS!



...BUT HEALTHY FOOD OP-TIONS LEAD TO LOWER SALES!
RUINING YOUNG PEOPLE'S TASTES
HEAL-THY!
DOWN...
OR HOW PEOPLE BLAME FAST FOOD FOR BEING UN-HEALTHY...


...BUT IF YOU DON'T TAKE IT, YOU'LL BE TOO SICK TO WORK ANYWAY!
DROOP
COUGH COUGH
COUGH
OR WHEN YOU GET SLEEPY AND CAN'T WORK AFTER TAK-ING COLD MEDICINE...

...AND THEN GETS MADDER AFTER YOU SAY IT!
IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT, JUST SAY IT!
LIKE WHEN A MAD PERSON SAYS, "IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT!"...
WHAA
QUIT RUNNING YOUR MOUTH!

I'M IN DESPAIR OVER A DOUBLY BOUND SOCIETY!

- PUBLIC FINANCE REFORM AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY
- MILITARY ACTIONS TAKEN TO ENSURE PEACE
- CUTTING COSTS AND ENHANCING EARTHQUAKE SAFETY
- CRITICIZED WHETHER THEY VISIT YASUKUNI OR NOT
- IF YOU ADMIT TO A CRIME THAT YOU DIDN'T COMMIT THEN YOU GET SET FREE, WHEREAS IF YOU DON'T ADMIT TO IT, YOU ARE DECLARED GUILTY
- IMPROVING MILEAGE AT THE EXPENSE OF POWER, OR IMPROVING POWER AT THE EXPENSE OF MILEAGE
- IF YOU DON'T PITCH STRAIGHT PEOPLE COMPLAIN, BUT IF YOU PITCH STRAIGHT THE BALL GETS HIT

- SHE ASKS WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT, HER OR YOUR JOB, AND SHE GETS MAD NO MATTER WHICH ANSWER YOU GIVE
- ASKING A REAL ESTATE AGENT FOR A "SPACIOUS APARTMENT IN A CONVENIENT LOCATION"
- CAT-LOVERS WITH CAT ALLERGIES
- YOU WANT THEM TO COME OVER, BUT WHEN THEY DO IT'S KIND OF A NUISANCE

- YOU WANT PEOPLE TO SEE THE ANIME ON TV, BUT YOU ALSO WANT THEM TO BUY DVDS... WHICH THEY WON'T WITH TOO WIDE A TV BROADCAST
- AS A VIEWER, YOU'D PREFER TO WATCH THE SHOW ON TV, BUT SINCE THE BROADCAST WAS LIMITED (SEE ABOVE) YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BUY THE DVD
- YOU WANT THEM TO BROADCAST YOUR ANIME DURING PRIMETIME, BUT YOU ALSO WANT THEM TO INCLUDE ALL THE POSSIBLY OFFENSIVE JOKES

I'M IN A DOUBLE BIND!
...AND IT RUBBED A LOT OF PEOPLE THE WRONG WAY.
I POSTED MY OPINIONS ABOUT A CERTAIN ANIME ON THE WEB...
... FUJIMOTO-SAN.
BUT THEY ALSO TELL ME NOT TO COMPLAIN IF I HAVEN'T SEEN IT! WHICH IS IT?!!
THEY SAID, IF YOU'RE GOING TO COMPLAIN, YOU SHOULDN'T WATCH IT!
<GRUMBLE> <GRUMBLE>
YOU COULD JUST NOT COM-PLAIN...
I'M IN A DOUBLE BIND!
HOW MUCH IS A "DOLLOP"?
OPTIONAL
YELLOW BEAN JAM OF HAPPINESS
ADD TO TASTE
REASON-ABLE AMOUNT!
LOOK AT THIS RECIPE!
Yellow is a color that brings happiness
Side Dish Advice
A reasonable amount of cooking wine
What was it? What was it? What was it? What was it?
And it's done!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS?

...IT WILL BECOME AN IMPRECISE DISH ACCORDING TO THE RECIPE!
EVEN IF I FOLLOW THE RECIPE PRECISELY...
SIDE DISH HAPPINESS RECIPES
HMM... I SEE...
I'M IN A DOUBLE BIND!
...BUT WITHOUT A JOB, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RENT AN APART-MENT?
IN ORDER TO GET A JOB I NEED AN ADDRESS ...
THIS IS AWFUL. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
SQUEEZE
IT'S BEEN AWHILE.
I'M IN A DOUBLE BIND!
...BUT IF I PICK ON HIM, HE ENDS UP HATING ME... IT'S A DOUBLE BIND.
WHENEVER I LIKE SOMEONE, I WANT TO PICK ON HIM...

I WANT TO COLLECT INSURANCE MONEY...
...BUT BY THE TIME THE MONEY GETS PAID, I WON'T BE HERE ANYMORE.
BUT SINCE YOU'RE NOT THE BENEFICIARY, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO USE THE MONEY ANYWAY.
I'M IN A DOUBLE BIND!
I... I SEE.
HRM?
ENOUGH ABOUT LIFE INSUR-ANCE!
OH, I GUESS IT'S NOT A DOUBLE BIND... SORRY, MY MISTAKE.
HER DOUBLE BIND IS PREVENTING HER FROM MOVING.
SNAP
ピカチコン
CRACKLE
WHAT'S WRONG WITH KAGA-SAN? SHE LOOKS SO UNCOM-FORTABLE.
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT YOU!
...BUT IF SHE OVERTLY REJECTS HIM, HE'LL END UP THINKING SHE LIKES HIM.
UM... ER...
UH...
HE WON'T GET THE MESSAGE UNLESS SHE OVERTLY REJECTS HIM...
I NEVER NEGOTIATE

...CAUSING MASSIVE INACTION AND DESPAIR.
IN ANY EVENT, THE WORLD IS FULL OF DOUBLE BINDS...
OH RIGHT, BECAUSE SHE'S A *TSUNDERE* OR SOMETHING.
IT'S THE DOUBLE BIND OF LOVE!
WELL... I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
JUST LIKE HOW THE HYBRID AUTOMOBILE TECHNOLOGY OF THE FUTURE SOLVED THE COMPETING NEEDS FOR MILEAGE AND POWER...
IT'S POSSIBLE TO BREAK THE CURSE OF ANY DOUBLE BIND!
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE!
ERR... UH... ISN'T THAT...
...BY PROVIDING INSURANCE PAYMENTS WHEN YOU ONLY HAVE 6 MONTHS TO LIVE!
PLAN
You will receive insurance
6 months left to live
...WE CAN SOLVE THE DOUBLE BIND OF INSURANCE PAYMENTS THAT AREN'T MADE UNTIL YOU DIE AND CAN'T BE USED...
COME ON NOW! REALLY...?!
• HAVE NO ADDRESS AND CAN'T WORK → LIVE IN A BOAT
• WANT A CONVENIENTLY LOCATED AND SPACIOUS APARTMENT → AN APARTMENT WHERE SOMETHING "HAPPENED"
• A WAR TO ACHIEVE PEACE → THE END OF THE HUMAN RACE
• YOU'RE ASKED, "WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT, ME OR WORK"→ QUIT YOUR JOB AND GO TO YOUR LOVER'S HOUSE
IT'S POSSIBLE TO ESCAPE YOUR CURSE!
A HIGHLY-RANKED GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.
WHO'S HE?
TEE-HEE. DON'T MENTION IT!
WHAT A GREAT IDEA, KAFUKA-CHAN!
...TO SOLVE URGENT SOCIAL ISSUES!
THAT'S RIGHT. WE CAN USE THE DOUBLE BIND PHENOMENON ...

ニート株式會社
UNMOTIVATED YOUTH CO., LTD.
HOPE FOR UNMOTIVATED YOUTH
2-105-PO-044

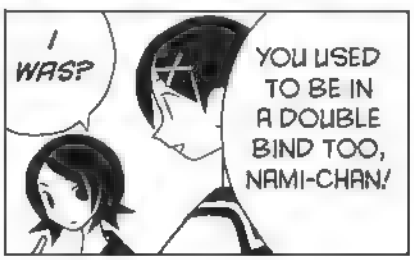
A COMPANY WHERE EMPLOYEES ARE TOLD NOT TO WORK.
IT'S UNMO-TIVATED YOUTH CO., LTD.
WHAT IS THIS?

...AND IN THE CASE YOU SHOULD DISLIKE THESE INSTRUCTIONS, AND END UP WORKING, WELL THEN, YOU DID WORK.
BASICALLY, EVEN IF YOU DON'T WORK, YOU'RE CONSIDERED TO HAVE PERFORMED YOUR FUNCTION...

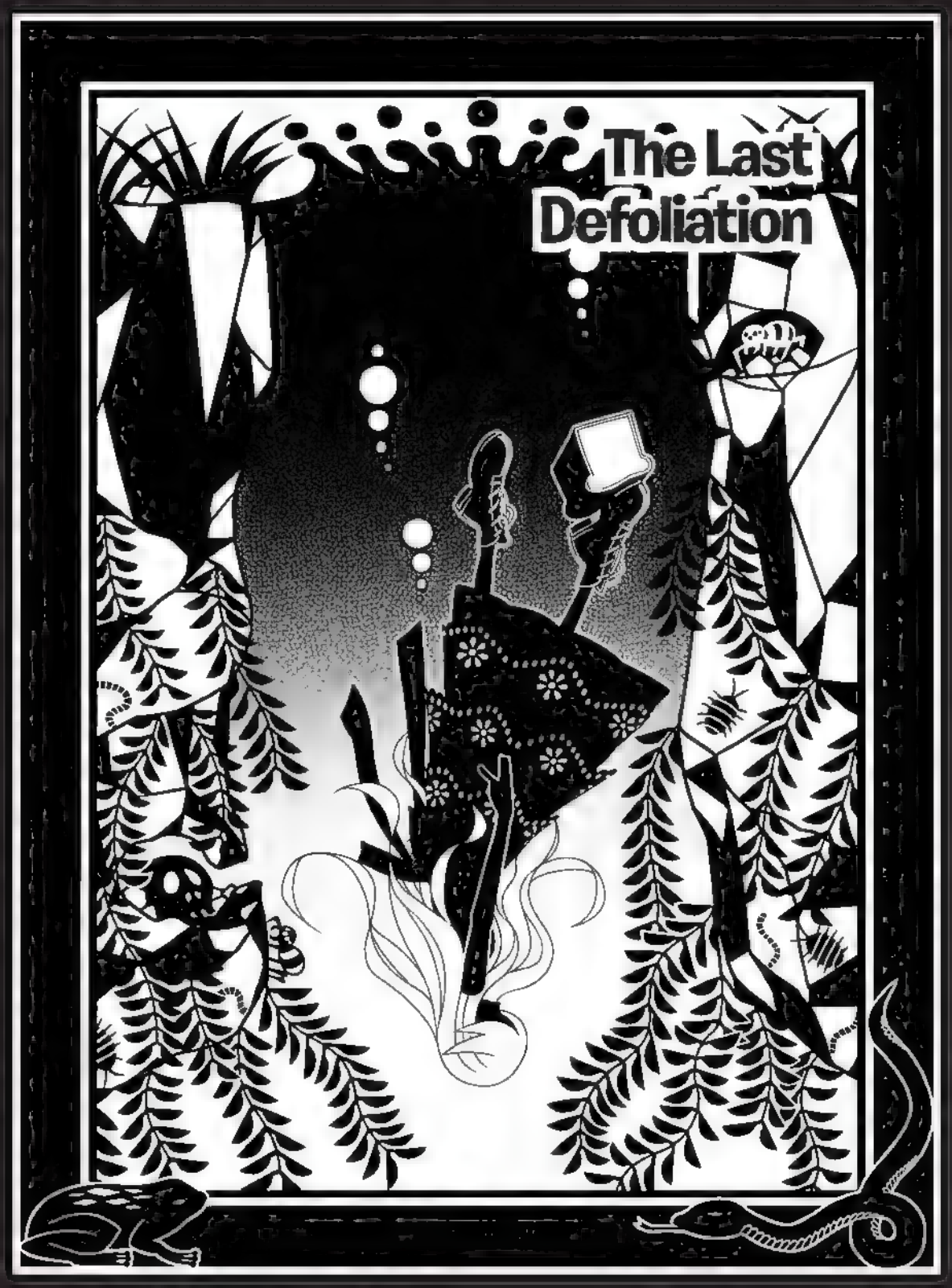
BUT I BET SOME OFFICIAL ACTUALLY THOUGHT OF THIS.
THAT'S TWISTED LOGIC!

IN THIS WAY WE CAN BRING DOWN YOUTH UNEM-PLOYMENT FIGURES!
EITHER WAY, IT'S A DOUBLE BIND WHERE YOU END UP WORKING!

OH YEAH... I FORGOT ABOUT THAT.
YOU STOPPED COM-ING TO SCHOOL TO ATTRACT ATTENTION, BUT YOU NEVER KNEW IF IT WAS WORKING BECAUSE YOU NEVER CAME TO SCHOOL!


I WAS?
YOU USED TO BE IN A DOUBLE BIND TOO, NAMI-CHAN!

OH HEY. I'M IN A DOUBLE BIND.
IS SOMETHING WRONG, CHIRI-CHAN?
...BUT IF I DO, IT WILL COME BACK TO ME.
I WANT TO CURSE SOMEBODY...
I'M GONNA CURSE 'EM ANYWAY.
WELL,
THEY DO SAY THAT CURSES, LIKE CHICKENS, COME HOME TO ROOST.



CHAPTER 116

THE LEAVES ARE STARTING TO FALL.
OH-HO.
AND ARE LEAVES THE ONLY THINGS FALLING?
ゴミ

IN THE FALL... MY SPIRITS FALL ALONG WITH THE LEAVES.

ARE BRANCHES THE ONLY THING BREAKING?
パさっ
CRACK
MY SPIRITS FALL!
YOUR SPIRITS ...?

...AND SPIRITS FALL ACCORDINGLY!
IT'S FALL...
MY HEART BREAKS TOO!
... SO DO MANY OTHER THINGS!
AND IF SPIRITS FALL...
...FELL TO THE DEPTHS OF HELL!
OR HOW THE GIRL WHO STEPPED ON BREAD...
LIKE THE STANDARDS OF YOUR APPEARANCE...
...ONCE YOU'RE AT HOME!
AND THE CLARITY OF MY STORYLINES!
AND THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES SOLD!
AND RANKINGS!
LIKE GRADES!
TEST RESULTS
I'M SURE YOU'D ENJOY IT.
WHY DON'T YOU MIX THINGS UP WITH A FALLING-PUZZLE GAME?
A REAL FALLING-PUZZLE GAME IS...
HOW IS THAT A FALLING-PUZZLE GAME? IT'S NOTHING OF THE SORT.
...CAN BE REALLY FUN TOO!
BUT YOU KNOW, SOME THINGS THAT FALL...

A 60-LETTER PASS-WORD?! WHAT?!
I CAN'T DO THIS ANY-MORE!
WHAT A DEPRES-SING ENDING
A GAME THAT CRUSHES YOUR SPIRITS AND MAKES THEM FALL!
• WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOUR ATTACK HAS HIT THE ENEMY IN FIST OF THE NORTH STAR 6 • YOUR SPIRITS FALL HAVING TO WAIT DURING A 30-MINUTE CUT SCENE • THE LAST BOSS DISAPPEARS WITHOUT YOU DOING ANYTHING • IF YOU JUMP, YOU DIE • YOUR SPIRITS FALL IN THE TIME IT TAKES FOR HER TO SAY, "NO WAY!" • MONSTER HUNTER (OFFLINE) • THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE PLAYING ONLINE GAMES MAKES YOUR SPIRITS FALL
THIS LIST IS UNRELATED TO THE IMAGES ABOVE
...I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE.
BY THE WAY, SEN-SEI...
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN FALLING IS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE.
IS THAT SO? HOW UNFORTUNATE FOR YOU.
BECAUSE IT MEANS YOU'LL FALL FLAT ON YOUR FACE!

FALLING IN LOVE ALWAYS MEANS FALLING ON YOUR FACE.
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
HEH-HEH...
DIDN'T HE FALL FLAT ON HIS FACE?
REJEC TION
JUST LOOK AT SHAKES-PEARE IN LOVE!
ROCK BOTTOM?
...IT SOMEHOW FEELS REASSURING.
NOW THAT I'VE FALLEN SO FAR AND HIT ROCK BOTTOM...
...A SECOND BOTTOM AWAITS!
...THAT SINCE THEY'VE HIT ROCK BOTTOM, THINGS CAN ONLY GET BETTER.
PEOPLE COMMONLY MAKE THE MISTAKE OF ASSUMING ...
BUT MARK MY WORDS ....

...ANOTHER ABYSS OPENS ITS MOUTH AND SUCKS YOU DOWN TO A SECOND BOTTOM!
A SECOND BOTTOM ??
IN-DEED.
JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE FALLEN AS FAR AS YOU CAN...
AND YOU FIND IT STUCK BEHIND YOUR EYELID AND HAVE TO GO TO THE DOCTOR!
OR WHEN YOU'RE DEPRESSED BECAUSE YOU LOST A CONTACT LENS...
AWW
BUT THEN SHE STARTS DATING YOUR BEST FRIEND!
IT-JUST HAPPENED
OR WHEN A GIRL DUMPS YOU AND YOU THINK YOU'VE HIT ROCK BOTTOM...
AND IT CONTINUES TO SPIRAL DOWN-WARD!
ARGH
LIKE WHEN ONE OF YOUR STOCKS GOES DOWN, BUT YOU HOLD ONTO IT BECAUSE THE EXPERTS SAY IT'S BOT-TOMED OUT...
GASP GASP
BOTTOM PRICE
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST LET IT GO.
ERR... SORRY, THAT WASN'T INTEN-TIONAL...
OH.
YOUR BOTTOM WILL SAG LOWER AND LOWER!
...OVER THE SECOND BOTTOM YOU FALL TO AFTER YOU THINK YOU'VE HIT ROCK BOTTOM!
ANYWAY, I'M IN DESPAIR ...

SNAP
ポキ
WHAT'S A SECOND BOTTOM?
ドカン
THUD
ARGH!
IS THAT REALLY THE END OF YOUR FALL?
THAT HURT! THIS SUCKS!
ROLL
ゴロゴロゴロ
WOBBLE
ぼろっ
THAT'S YOUR SECOND BOTTOM.

I WONDER IF I'VE HIT MY SECOND BOTTOM.
I THOUGHT IT WASN'T POSSIBLE TO BE ANY POORER THAN I AM NOW...
...BUT THEN I RECEIVED A MARGIN CALL.
NOT AGAIN ...
...I'M AFRAID IT'S A BIT TOO ADVANCED FOR BOYS' MANGA.
WHILE A GERMANE EXAMPLE OF A SECOND BOTTOM ...
PSHHH
PHSSHH
ぷぉん
ぷす
JUST MY LUCK TO HAVE A BREAKDOWN HERE!
MAN! THIS SUCKS!
SCREEECH
YOU NEVER KNOW. IT COULD EVEN GET WORSE.
WHAAAM
どぉおーん
YOUR SECOND BOTTOM.
YOU SEE?
ARGH!
19

I BROKE MY LEG AND THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE...
ARGH
A SIMILAR THING JUST HAPPENED TO ME.
INDEED, THAT WAS A SECOND BOTTOM.
...AND THEN I GOT HIT BY THE AMBU-LANCE.
WOW. TWO CHAPTERS IN A ROW.
HA-HA-HA... YOU'RE ALL AMATEURS!
...AND ONCE AGAIN I WAS SHUT OUT FROM IT!
BUT THEN I DISCOVERED THERE'S A HIERARCHY IN THE PARK TOO...
...I BEGAN LIVING IN THE PARK, THINKING IT COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE.
SHUT OUT FROM THE HIERARCHY OF SOCIETY...
...AND MAKES ONLY AN EFFORT TO RISE AGAIN, WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE MERIT OF MAINTAINING HIS CURRENT POSITION...
A MAN WHO HAS FALLEN ONCE AND BELIEVES HE CAN FALL NO FURTHER...
THANK YOU. THAT WAS A VERY CLEAR EXAMPLE.
IT'S MY SEC-OND BOT-TOM!

SECOND BOTTOM	BOTTOM	SECOND BOTTOM	BOTTOM
YOU GET A WEIRD PERM AT A SALON	YOU TRY CUTTING YOUR OWN HAIR AND FAIL	39,980 YEN	44,980 YEN
YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION GETS LEAKED	A VIRUS CRASHES YOUR COMPUTER	ARRESTED FOR THEFT	FIRED FROM THE OFFICE
YOU BECOME THE REGULAR FAVORITE OF A GANG BOSS	YOU GET THROWN IN JAIL	WIG ALSO DISCOVERED	FALSIFIED EARTHQUAKE PREVENTION DOCUMENTS DISCOVERED
YOUR REAL CHILD/GRANDCHILD SWINDLES YOU FOR MONEY	YOU FALL VICTIM TO AN "IT'S ME" FRAUD	DIVORCE	CHANGE NAME
THE DEVIL CUTS OFF YOUR TONGUE	DEATH	PESTERED BY THE MEDIA	ABDUCTED

...WILL LIKELY FALL TO A SECOND BOTTOM!

I FELL OUT OF FAVOR...

...WITH AN EVIL SPIRIT.

...I CAN FINALLY PRESENT THIS POEM.

poem

AND SINCE I RID MYSELF OF THE SPIRIT...

THE SPIRIT'S STILL HAUNTING YOU!

WHEN I SLAPPED MY POCKET, THERE WERE TWO SLABS OF MEAT. ONE SLAB WAS HIS...

I SOLD MY DREAMS, SLICED THE RAW MEAT I RECEIVED FROM AN ANGEL, AND THEN PUT IT IN MY POCKET.

WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?

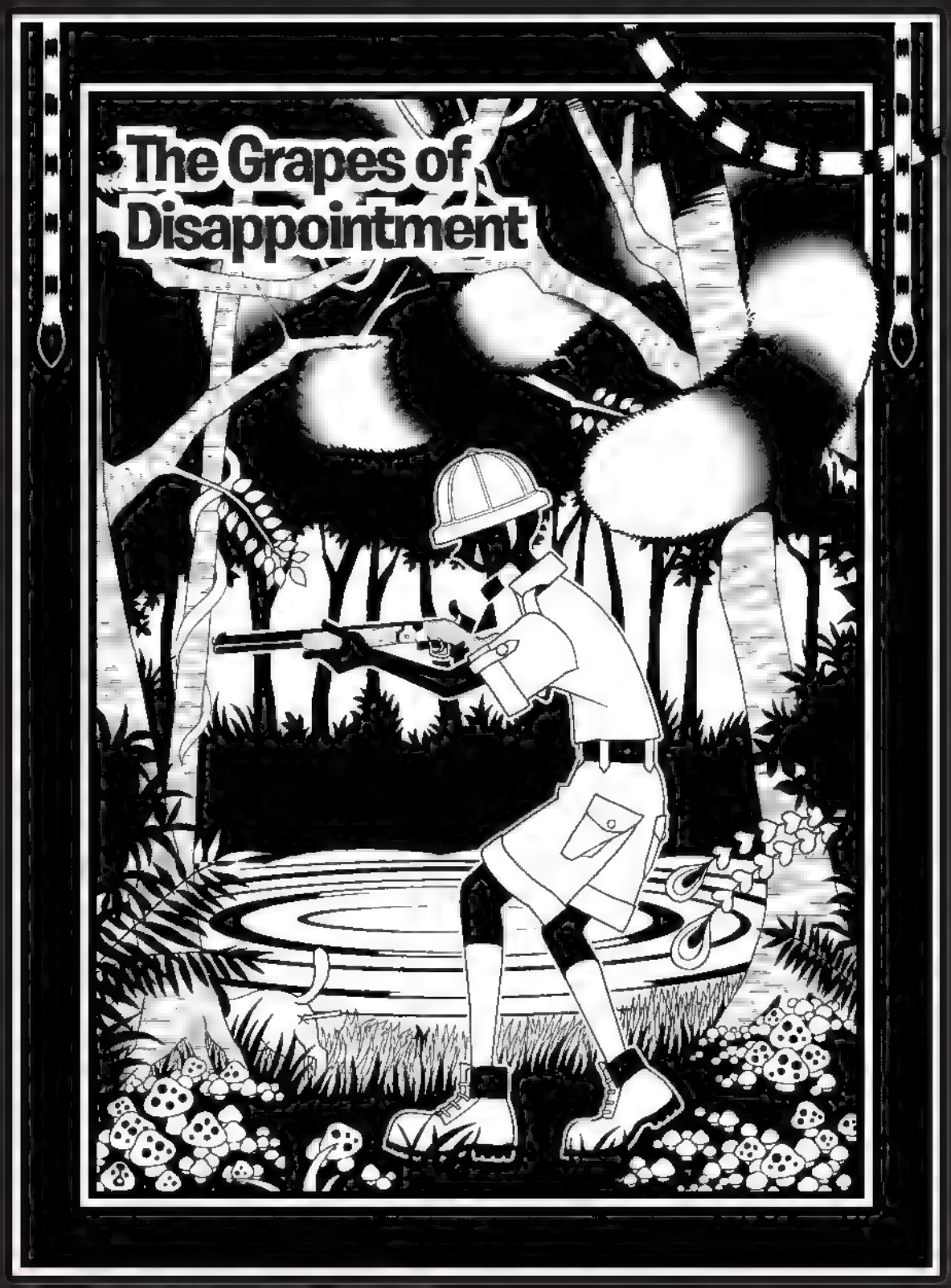
DOWN... DOWN... DOWN...

THAT'S RIGHT... AND MY SECOND BOTTOM AWAITS ME IN WONDERLAND. WAIT, MR. RABBIT!

YOUR STORIES NEVER FALL INTO PLACE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT, DO YOU, SENSEI?
WELL, I GUESS MANY THINGS ARE FALLING, NOW THAT IT'S FALL.
...THE LAST CHAPTER AND THE CHAPTER BEFORE THAT DIDN'T FALL INTO PLACE!
AH... EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE SEASON FOR MANY THINGS TO FALL...
THAT'S USUALLY NOT MY FAULT!
WELL THEN, LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN.
I'D LIKE FOR THEM TO FALL INTO PLACE, IF POSSIBLE!
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FALLING, SENSEI.
THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF CRAFTING AN EXPERT STORY, FOR EXAMPLE...
LET'S ASK THESE RAKUGO EXPERTS HOW TO MAKE STORIES FALL INTO PLACE.
Theater of Darkness "DEPRESSED NOZOMU"
WHAT'S THE EASIEST ONE?
HMMM... I'D SAY BEGINNING WITH A JOKE.
...BEGINNING THE STORY WITH A JOKE,
REVEALING AT THE END THAT IT WAS ALL A DREAM,
OR USING EXPLOSIONS AND INSIDE JOKES.

落
落
落
GLOOM
SHOULD I KILL MYSELF?
BECAUSE HE'S BASICALLY FALLING OVER?
<SIGH>
WHAT A HOOT!
GLOOM
IT'S FALLING INTO PLACE!
WHAT IS THIS, JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL?
WHEN IT'S ALL A DREAM, THE STORY FALLS INTO PLACE.
GLOOM
OH... IT WAS ALL A DREAM. I HATE REALITY. MAYBE I'LL STOP GOING TO SCHOOL.
GASP
A DREAM?!
RI-I-I-I-ING
...OR SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME TRYING TO MAKE A STORY FALL INTO PLACE?
WHICH IS BETTER, NOT BEING ABLE TO MAKE A STORY FALL INTO PLACE...
AH HA HA
AN INSIDE JOKE!
SO, WHAT DOES THIS YEARN ANYWAY?
GLOOM
LET'S THROW IN AN EXPLOSION!
GLOOM
<SIGH>

POP
しぱーん
HERE I AM IN BRAZIL.
SHIYAMA
Coffee Farm
Welcome to Brazil
coffee



CHAPTER 117

HIKING TRAILS MAP
PRIVATE BUS
ODAKYU BUS
ODAKYU BUS
Mount Iam Trail
WE CAME TO SEE THE COLORFUL AUTUMN LEAVES...
...BUT THEY HAVEN'T CHANGED COLOR YET.
WHAT A LET-DOWN.

名物
がっ狩り
MT. LETDOWN
ENTRANCE CLOSED ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS
入口
WHAT'S THIS?!
HUH?
IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT.
MT. LET-DOWN IS FAMOUS FOR ITS LET-DOWNS.
YOU CAN FIND MANY DISAPPOINTING THINGS HERE.
WHAT?
... WE WOULD HAVE BEEN SORELY LET DOWN.
ORANGE-PICKING
PEAR-PICKING
GRAPE-PICKING
FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE HAD COME TODAY FOR LEAF-VIEWING, STRAWBERRY-PICKING, OR GRAPE-PICKING...
BUT THE ORANGES LOOK PRETTY GOOD.

...ON MT. LETDOWN!
HOW WONDERFUL TO FIND BITTER ORANGES ...
YOU WERE LET DOWN.
SO BIT-TER!
...IN ANTICIPATION OF BEING LET DOWN!
EVERYONE COMES TO THIS MOUNTAIN ...
AN ADMIRAL LETDOWN.
TYPES OF MUSH-ROOMS
SO SMALL.
IT'S TRUE; THAT WAS A LITTLE DISAPPOINTING ...
NEED-LESS TO SAY, THE RESULTS WERE A LETDOWN.
...BY A CERTAIN SOME-ONE, TO UNCOVER TOKUGAWA-ERA HIDDEN TREASURE.
EXCAVATION PLANNED SITE ITOI
THIS MOUNTAIN ALSO HAPPENS TO BE SITE OF AN EXCAVATION ATTEMPT...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
NO SIGN!
IS SHE THERE?!
...LETDOWN.
YET ANO-THER ...
...BUT IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S ESCAPED.
WE WERE COMBING THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE FOR A SUSPECT...
PEEK
OVER THERE!

*SIGN: "HUNTING OF ANGELS PROHIBITED - EXCEPT ELVES"

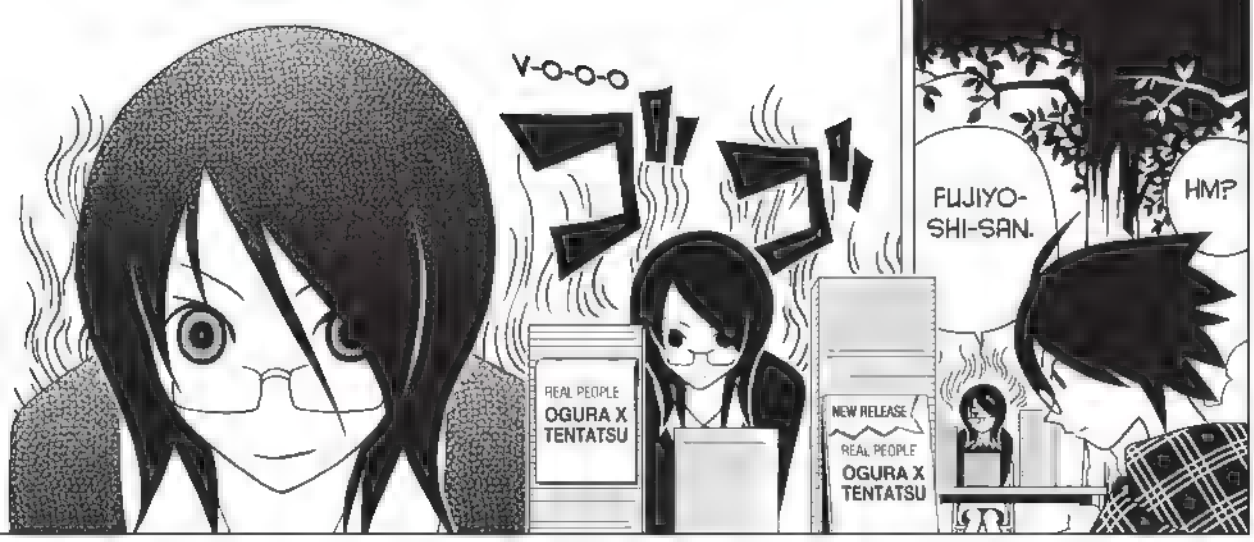
WHY WOULD THERE BE GAMES?
LOOK! SOME VIDEO GAMES ARE GROWING.
SENSEI, THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF THINGS GROWING OVER HERE.
AW... BUT IT'S A LET-DOWN.
WHAT A BORING GAME.
AH, ILLEGAL DUMPING, I SEE.
ONLY PRODUCTS THAT LET DOWN CUSTOMERS ARE DUMPED ON MT. LETDOWN.
WHAT A LET-DOWN.
ALL THE THINGS GROWING HERE KINDA SUCK.
IT'S BEEN ONE YEAR AND EIGHT MONTHS SINCE HUNTING WAS LAST PERMITTED.
... HUNTER!
LOOK, IT'S HUNTER ...
...ON MT. LETDOWN CAN BE A PROPER LETDOWN.
I GUESS NOT EVERY-THING...
QUITE THE CONTRARY, HUNTER X HUNTER WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!
I WONDER IF HE FELT LET DOWN?
EVERY-BODY, GATHER AROUND!
ガッカリ
GEEZ!

SO, TODAY'S TRIP WAS ACTUALLY NOT TO CLIMB MT. LETDOWN.
WE HAVE A DIFFERENT GOAL.
WHAT A LIAR.
NO, I ASSURE YOU... THAT'S NOT...
YOU JUST REALIZED THAT THE JOKE HAD GOTTEN INCREDIBLY OLD.
WE CAME TO LOOK FOR THE SPRING OF GRATITUDE HIDDEN IN THIS MOUNTAIN, DIDN'T WE?
BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHERE IT IS.
YES. THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!
THIS WAY.

I'VE NEVER BEEN, BUT I'M SURE IT'S THIS WAY.
HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE SPRING BEFORE, KITSU-SAN?
IT'S THIS WAY!
IN SITUATIONS LIKE THESE, IT'S BETTER TO JUST SHUT UP AND FOLLOW HER.
MY GOD! IT REALLY DOES EXIST!
HRM.
THIS MUST BE THAT FAMOUS SHOW, THE SPRING OF AURAS!
THE GUESTS ARE ALL EMITTING STRONG AURAS FROM THEIR BODIES!
V-O-O-O-O

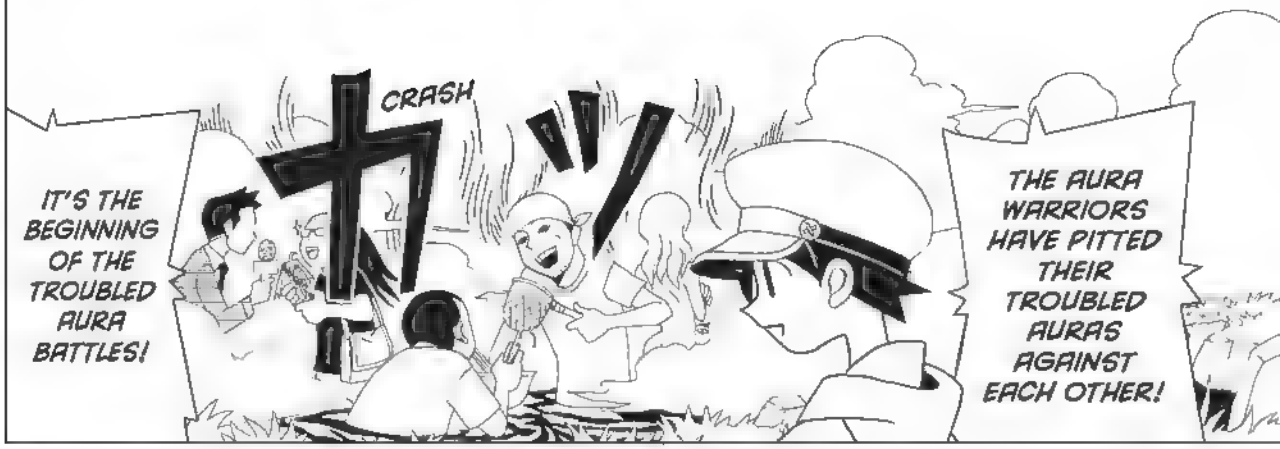
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
もも
もも
...IS RATHER STRANGE.
SOME-THING ABOUT THEIR AURAS...
IT'S ONLY NATURAL. THE AURAS THEY'RE EMANATING ...
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
...ARE MATING AURAS!
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
DID I JUST HEAR A... VULGAR NOISE?
もも WHEEZE もも
HAS NEVER EATEN A MEAL WITH GIRLS
YOU KNOW THOSE GUYS WHO SIT AT THE TABLE AND JUST STARE AT THE GIRLS!
THAT'S OBVIOUSLY AN ESCAPE-WISH AURA!
...EMANATING FROM THE GIRL ACROSS FROM HIM.
THERE SEEMS TO BE A DIFFERENT SORT OF UNPLEASANT AURA...

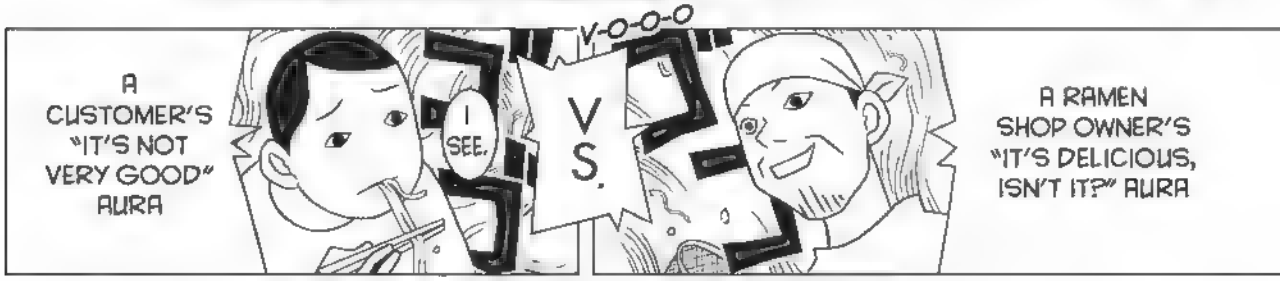
THE AURAS HERE...
YES... NOW I SEE.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
YOU CAN FEEL THE ESCAPE-WISH EMANATING FROM HER ENTIRE BODY!
THIS IS THE SPRING OF TROUBLED AURAS!
OR, AS I CALL THEM, TROUBLED AURAS!
THE AURAS PEOPLE EMIT ARE NOT ALL POSITIVE. SOMETIMES WE HAVE NEGATIVE AURAS.
TROUBLED AURAS?
...TELLING ME THE CHAPTER IS BORING!
BOR-ING
OR MY EDITOR'S AURA...
... BEGGING YOU TO LEAVE!
LEAVE
OR YOUR WAIT-RESS'S AURA...
... BEGGING YOU TO QUIT!
QUIT
LIKE YOUR BOSS'S AURA...
SO I JUST GOTTA FIX IT, RIGHT?
MANAGER
I SEE...
A BREAKUP AURA!
THAT GIRL IS EMANATING A TROUBLED AURA AS WELL!

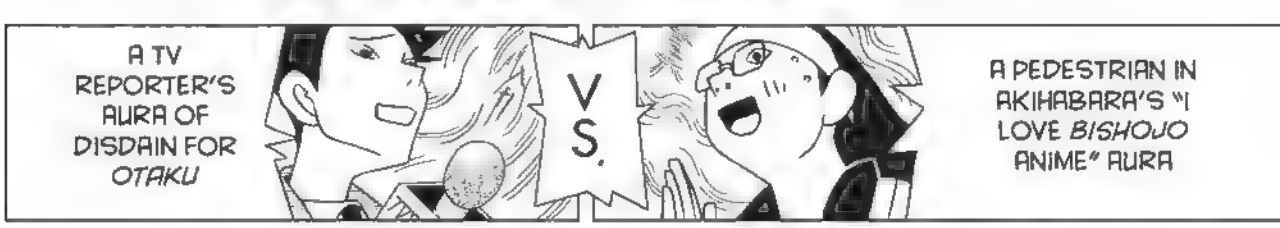


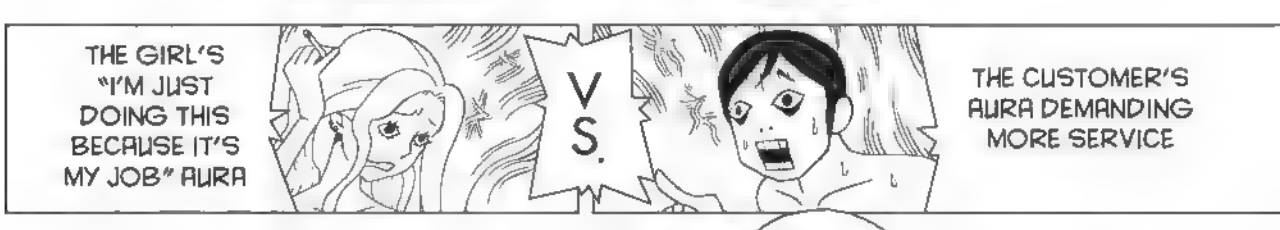
I FEEL LIKE I RECOGNIZE IT FROM SOMEWHERE...
WOW... THAT'S QUITE A TROUBLED AURA.
OH!
TAIYO PUB..IC TIONS
...A "BUY MY DOJIN-SHI" AURA!
TH-THIS IS...

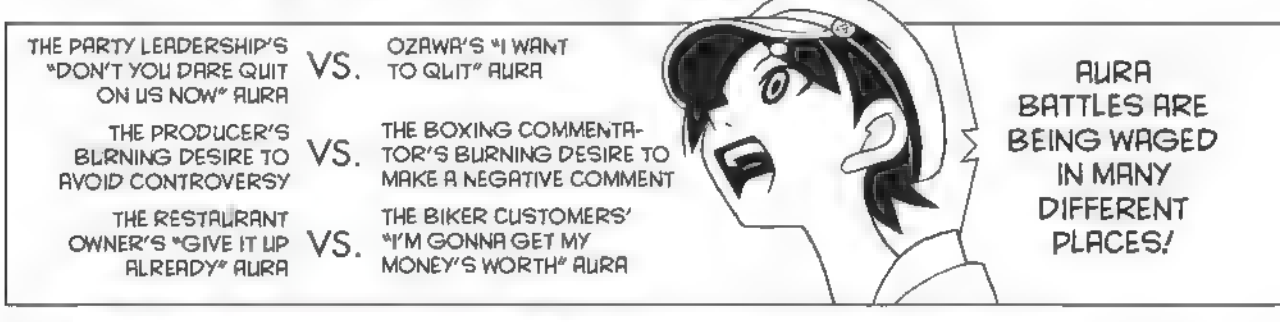
- YOUR "I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY" AURA WHEN YOU GO OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS
- PRIME MINISTER ABE'S "I WANT TO QUIT" AURA
- WHITE PEOPLE'S AURA OF CONDESCENSION TOWARD ASIAN PEOPLE
- A "JUMP OFF THE BUILDING FOR US" AURA FROM YOUR FAMILY
- MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS' "I WANT GIRLS TO LIKE ME" AURA
- MOM'S "YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT BECAUSE THAT'S ALL DAD'S SALARY CAN AFFORD" AURA
- MICKEY'S AURA OF DENIAL THAT THERE'S A PERSON IN THE SUIT
- TAXI DRIVERS' AURA OF ANGER TOWARD THOSE RIDING SHORT DISTANCES
- STUDENTS' "PLEASE DON'T CALL ON ME" AURA
- A BATTER'S "PLEASE LET ME WALK" AURA WHEN HE KNOWS HE CAN'T MAKE A HIT


IT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE TROUBLED AURA BATTLES!
CRASH
THE AURA WARRIORS HAVE PITTED THEIR TROUBLED AURAS AGAINST EACH OTHER!


A CUSTOMER'S "IT'S NOT VERY GOOD" AURA
I SEE.
V-O-O-O
VS.
A RAMEN SHOP OWNER'S "IT'S DELICIOUS, ISN'T IT?" AURA


A TV REPORTER'S AURA OF DISDAIN FOR *OTAKU*
VS.
A PEDESTRIAN IN AKIHABARA'S "I LOVE *BISHOJO* ANIME" AURA


THE GIRL'S "I'M JUST DOING THIS BECAUSE IT'S MY JOB" AURA
VS.
THE CUSTOMER'S AURA DEMANDING MORE SERVICE


THE PARTY LEADERSHIP'S "DON'T YOU DARE QUIT ON US NOW" AURA
VS.
OZAWA'S "I WANT TO QUIT" AURA
THE PRODUCER'S BURNING DESIRE TO AVOID CONTROVERSY
VS.
THE BOXING COMMENTATOR'S BURNING DESIRE TO MAKE A NEGATIVE COMMENT
THE RESTAURANT OWNER'S "GIVE IT UP ALREADY" AURA
VS.
THE BIKER CUSTOMERS' "I'M GONNA GET MY MONEY'S WORTH" AURA
AURA BATTLES ARE BEING WAGED IN MANY DIFFERENT PLACES!

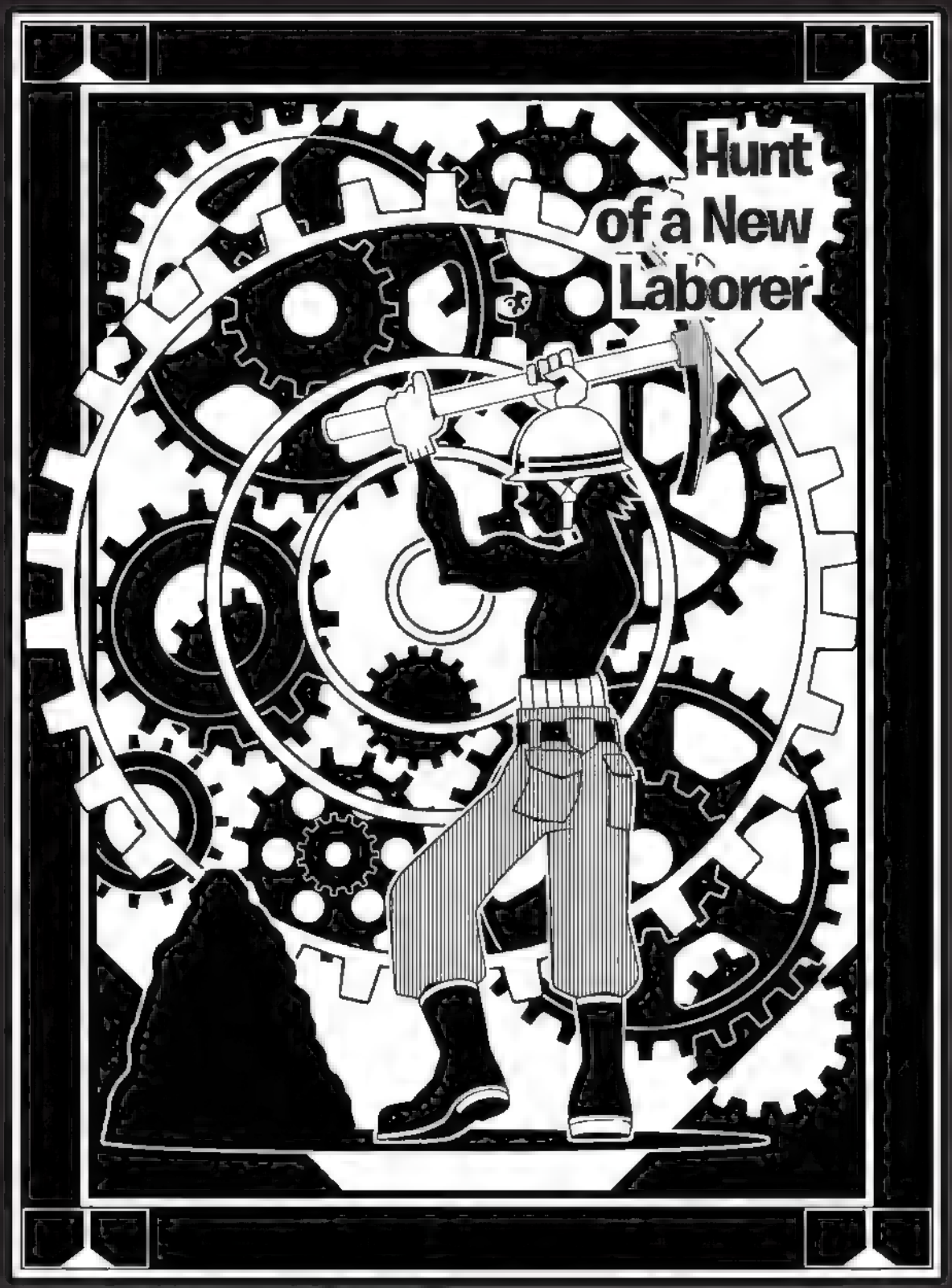
SIGH
...I EMIT MY OWN DEATH-WISH AURA.
AND AT THE SAME TIME...
I'VE BEEN WITNESS TO MANY AN AURA BATTLE.

IT DOESN'T COME ACROSS.
BUT IT'S ALL I THINK ABOUT!
NOT ONE BIT.
I DON'T GET THAT AURA FROM YOU AT ALL, SENSEI!
IT'S BECAUSE OF ME THAT EVERYONE AROUND TOWN EMITS SUCH TROUBLED AURAS!
I'M SORRY, IT'S MY FAULT!
TREMBLE
OH, KAGA-CHAN!
...I MAKE STORE ATTENDANTS EMIT A "THAT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON YOU" AURA.
BECAUSE I HAVE NO SENSE OF STYLE...
WHY?
HUH?
...I MAKE THE CHECKOUT CLERK EMIT A "I HATE WRAPPING THINGS" AURA.
BECAUSE I STUPIDLY BUY PRESENTS...
WHAT?
EEEK!
SUCH A VICTIMIZER.
MY IMMATURE SOUL CAUSES MANY PEOPLE TO EMIT EVIL AURAS!
...AN EVIL AURA, TOO!
I'VE MADE YOU EMIT...

12

IT'S AN "I BASHED HIM IN THREE VITAL ZONES WITH A BLUNT OBJECT (SOMETHING LIKE A CROWBAR), THEN WHEN HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS SUBMERGED AND LEFT HIM IN A WATER-FILLED CHAMBER, AND THEN WHEN HE WAS THOROUGHLY DEBILITATED, I TOOK HIM TO THE MOUNTAIN, STILL ALIVE..." AURA!

I BET...
...YOU JUST EMITTED AN "IT'S HOT, SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF YOUR BLANKET?" AURA.



CHAPTER 118

SHOWA ERA YEAR 82
NOVEMBER
23
LABOR THANKSGIVING
LABOR THANKS-GIVING DAY
WHO'S SUPPOSED TO SHOW THANKS TO WHOM?
MAYBE... PEOPLE WHO DON'T WORK TO PEOPLE WHO DO?
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

BOY, I LOVE LUCKY STAR!
VOCALOID オンリー
WHAT ...?!
GRAB
COME!
SAFETY FIRST
ASO CEMENT
ASO CEMENT
WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCON-VENIENCE
?
SAFETY FIRST
DO IT!
SHOW THANKS!

SAFE
?
YOU'RE IN THE WAY. COULD YOU GET OUT?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
... SHOW THANKS TO ACTUAL WORKERS!
THIS LABOR THANKSGIVING DAY, WE'LL MAKE UNEMPLOYED AND UNMOTIVATED YOUNG PEOPLE...
YOUTHS FROM ALL REGIONS KIDNAPPED
ニート各地で拉致
According to a witness, "the unemployed youth was repeatedly apologizing, as though scar[illegible] of something."
FORCED TO SHOW THANKS
November 23. Unemployed youths around the nation have been disappearing and showing up in various construction sites.
WOW...
UNEMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE BEING KIDNAPPED AND FORCED TO SHOW THANKS TO WORKING PEOPLE.
WHY THAT'S ...

SLIDE
ガラッ
BUT THE MAIN SUS-PECT ...

I WOULDN'T CALL THESE INCIDENTS "CRIMES."
...REALLY?

...GREAT NEWS!

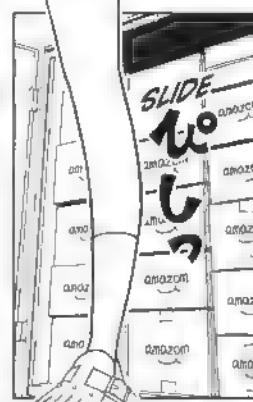
CHIRI-CHAN?
THAT GIRL... GETTING INTO TROUBLE AGAIN.

...FOR THESE KIDNAP-PINGS IS CHIRI-CHAN!

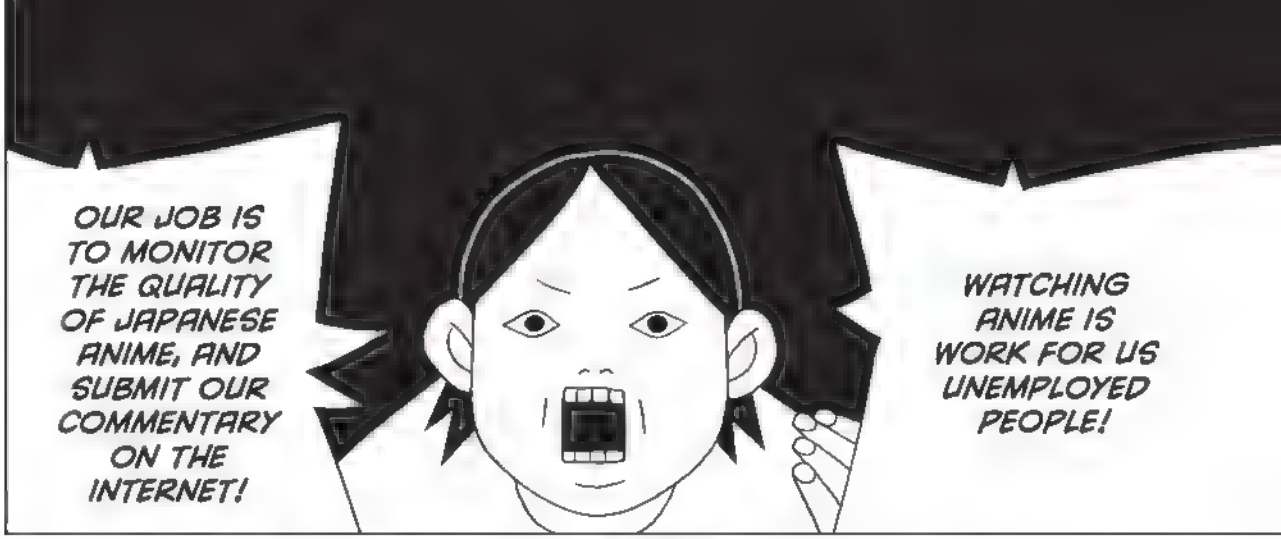
SERVICE
KO SHI-KAWA
3-CHOME
3-CHOME BRANCH
CHAGAWA PARCEL SERVICE
COOL DELIVERY

THERE ARE SOME UNEMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE HERE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SHOW THEIR THANKS.

VERY NICE WORK, SIR.
PHEW
ブォロ
SHRUG
CHAGAWA


SLIDE
ぴっ
amazon

WHAT THE!?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
SPEEDY
COOL DELIVERY
FUJIYA CANDY STO
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
AND AGAIN!
WOW... WHERE DID SHE GET ALL OF THEM FROM?
WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO SAY THANK YOU TO PEOPLE WE DON'T EVEN KNOW, JUST BECAUSE WE'RE UNEMPLOYED?!
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!
2·10
BUT YOU'RE JUST A STUDENT! YOU DON'T WORK EITHER!
AKA-SAKA DRUGS
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU SHOW THANKS, SINCE YOU DON'T WORK YOURSELF.
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT THIS...
NONE OF YOU ATTEND SCHOOL. AM I WRONG?
A STUDENT'S DUTY IS TO STUDY, SO IT'S NATURAL THAT I FULFILL THAT DUTY.


OUR JOB IS TO MONITOR THE QUALITY OF JAPANESE ANIME, AND SUBMIT OUR COMMENTARY ON THE INTERNET!
WATCHING ANIME IS WORK FOR US UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE!

AND I'M AN AT-HOME POLITICAL COMMEN-TATOR!
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M AN AT-HOME GAME DEBUG-GER!

WHAT ...?
YOU COULD CALL US AT-HOME ANIME QUALITY MANAGERS!

BEFORE LONG, YOU'LL CALL YOURSELF AN "AT-HOME PRINCE"!
• AT-HOME IDOL
• AT-HOME HARUHI ENDING DANCER
• AT-HOME DETECTIVE
• AT-HOME FOREIGNER
• AT-HOME ATTORNEY
• AT-HOME DOCTOR
• AT-HOME BIKE GANG MEMBER
• AT-HOME BASEBALL COMMENTATOR
• AT-HOME FAMOUS JAPANESE DIRECTOR
• AT-HOME DARK HUNTER
I SUPPOSE YOU'LL SAY ANYTHING IS VALID, THEN/?

WHAT I FIND MORE ABOMINABLE ARE THOSE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING POPULATION WHO DON'T ACTUALLY WORK.
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH THEY'RE RECEIVING ANY SALARIES FOR THEIR TRAVAILS...

PEOPLE WHO DON'T WORK.
THEY EXIST IN EVERY COMPANY AND ORGA-NIZATION...

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD JUST LET THEM BE.
SENSEI.

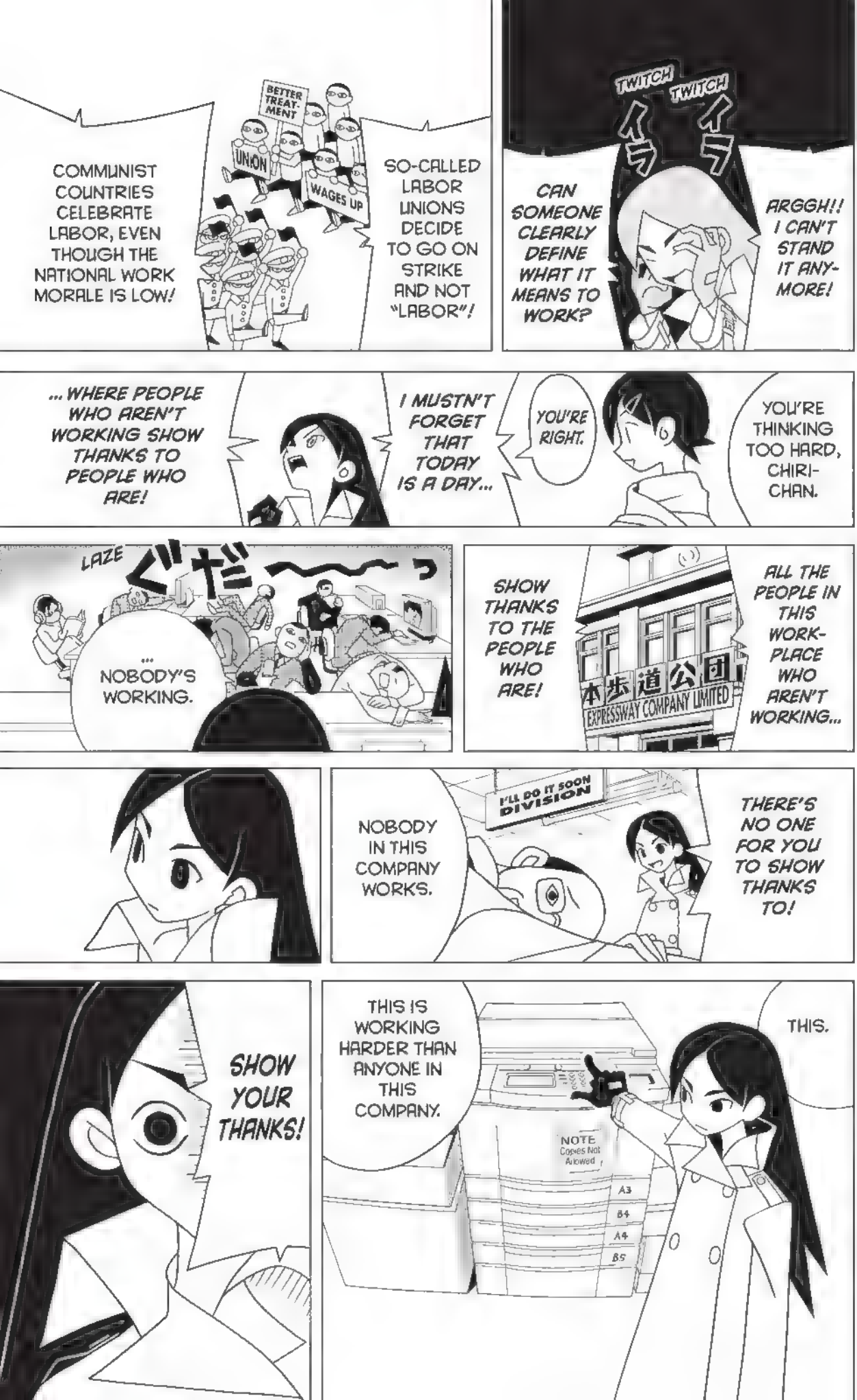
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
SHOW THANKS TO A WORKING PERSON!
ME!
WE SHOULD GET THOSE PEOPLE TO SHOW THANKS ON THIS DAY!
...BUT RATHER THOSE PEOPLE WHO LURK INSIDE ORGANIZATIONS AND DO ABSOLUTELY NO WORK...
WAIT! I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT MYSELF ...
STARE
OR LIKE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WHO TAKE NAPS DURING HEARINGS!
OR LIKE FUKUDOME THIS YEAR!
THE DRAGONS WIN!
OR PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO WRITE LONG ONLINE COMMENTARY CLEARLY DURING WORK HOURS!
LIKE OFFICE WORKERS HAPPILY READING TO LOVERU IN THE MORNING AT THEIR DESKS!
SO BASICALLY, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...
YOU WERE HERE?
PEEK
...SHOULD SHOW THANKS TO THE MONEY-MAKER, KASHIWAGI!
STARE
BASICALLY, THE FORWARD HIRAYAMA, WHO STANDS OUT THERE NOT WORKING AT ALL...

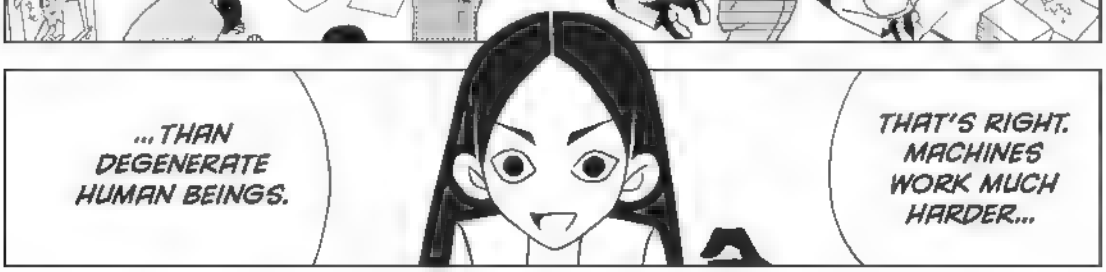
...SHOULD SHOW THANKS TO THOSE WHO ARE IN PRINT!
...IS THAT MANGA ARTISTS NOT CURRENTLY APPEARING IN PRINT...
I SAID NOTHING OF THE SORT!
OPTOMETRIST
LOST
...THE FINAL PRODUCT CAN BE SEVERELY AFFECTED!
IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT DEPENDING ON WHICH STAFF MEMBER ISN'T WORKING...
...IS AN INDIVIDUAL'S COMMITMENT TO BE PRODUCTIVE?
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT MORE IMPORTANT THAN ACTUAL EMPLOYMENT...
...SHOULD SHOW THANKS TO WELL-ANIMATED ANIME!
I SAY THAT POORLY-ANIMATED ANIME...
IS THAT A PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE COMMENT?
...YOU CAN'T DENY THAT WE'RE WORKING FOR NO PAY!
THAT'S RIGHT! EVEN THOUGH WE'RE NOT EMPLOYED...

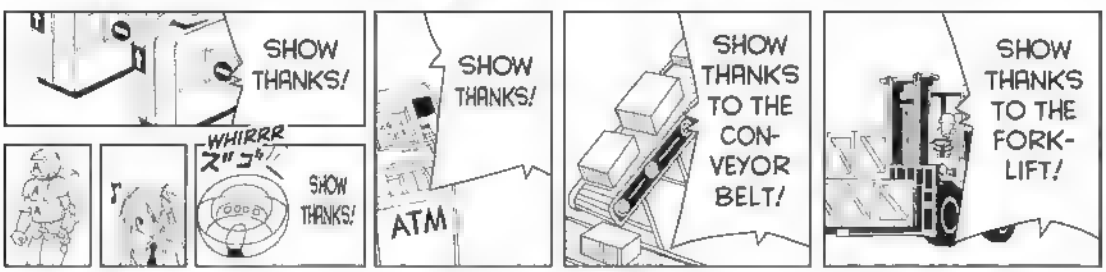
...BUT LIFE NEVER SEEMS TO GET ANY EASIER.
I WORK AND I WORK...
EVERY-THING IS HIGH QUALITY!
HUH? OKUSA-SAN...
BECAUSE YOU HAVE SO MANY SHOWS TO WATCH.
I WORK AND I WORK...
BEING A QUALITY MANAGER'S REAL TOUGH.
I HAVEN'T SOLD A SINGLE ITEM YET!
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BUY SOME CLEANING OR HEALTH PRODUCTS ?!
SOAP
I FEEL BAD FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WORK HARDER THAN ME!
MY SALES ARE LOWER THAN EVERY-ONE ELSE IN THE CLUB...
HOW COULD YOU THINK THAT OKUSA-SAN ISN'T WORKING?
BOUNCE
SHALL WE GO?
IF YOU'RE NOT WORKING, YOU NEED TO SHOW THANKS TO PEOPLE WHO ARE.

SHE'S A FANTASTIC EXAMPLE OF WASTED EFFORT.
THAT'S HORRIBLE... TO WASTE ONE'S EFFORT!
COOKIE SAWAJIRI
WE HAVE NOTHING
NOT AT ALL! WASTED EFFORT IS A PRIME FORM OF WORK!
IN FACT, WE SHOULD SHOW THANKS ...
... TO ALL THE WASTED EFFORT IN THE WORLD!
LIKE DELIVERING A PACKAGE TO THE TOP FLOOR, ONLY TO FIND THE RECIP ENT NOT HOME!
OR LOSING THREE HOURS OF WORK WHEN YOUR COMPUTER FREEZES!
The Program Froze
WE SELL EVERYTHING
OR WHEN YOU DROP YOUR FRESHLY WASHED SHIRTS ON THE STREET AND HAVE TO WASH THEM ALL OVER AGAIN!

- TSUNEO WATANABE'S GRAND COALITION
- TRYING TO TALK WITH THAT COUNTRY
- PEELING THE DOUGH OFF OF STEAMED BEAN-JAM BUNS AND REUSING THE BEAN JAM
- HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, JUST BECAUSE I LOOK SUSPICIOUS, BRINGING ME IN FOR QUESTIONING IS A WASTE OF EFFORT!
- THE CONCEPTUALIZATION OF A FANTASY MANGA THAT I CAME UP WITH JUST IN CASE JUMP SQUARE ASKED ME


COMMUNIST COUNTRIES CELEBRATE LABOR, EVEN THOUGH THE NATIONAL WORK MORALE IS LOW!
BETTER TREATMENT
UNION
WAGES UP
SO-CALLED LABOR UNIONS DECIDE TO GO ON STRIKE AND NOT "LABOR"!
TWITCH
TWITCH
CAN SOMEONE CLEARLY DEFINE WHAT IT MEANS TO WORK?
ARGGH!! I CAN'T STAND IT ANY-MORE!
... WHERE PEOPLE WHO AREN'T WORKING SHOW THANKS TO PEOPLE WHO ARE!
I MUSTN'T FORGET THAT TODAY IS A DAY...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU'RE THINKING TOO HARD, CHIRI-CHAN.
LAZE
ぐだ～～～っ
... NOBODY'S WORKING.
SHOW THANKS TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE!
本歩道公団
EXPRESSWAY COMPANY LIMITED
ALL THE PEOPLE IN THIS WORK-PLACE WHO AREN'T WORKING...
NOBODY IN THIS COMPANY WORKS.
I'LL DO IT SOON DIVISION
THERE'S NO ONE FOR YOU TO SHOW THANKS TO!
SHOW YOUR THANKS!
THIS IS WORKING HARDER THAN ANYONE IN THIS COMPANY.
NOTE Copies Not Allowed
A3
B4
A4
B5
THIS.



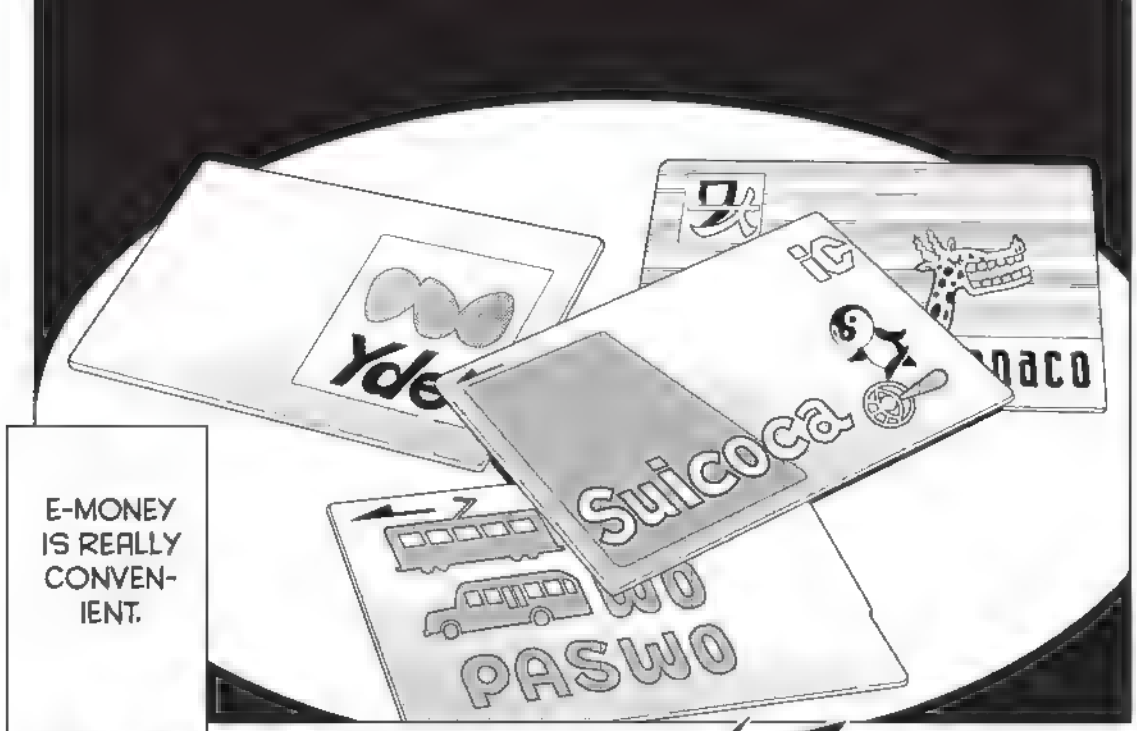


THE YEAR 2564, NOVEMBER 23 (LABOR THANKSGIVING DAY)

IT'S LIKE ONE OF SHIN'ICHI HOSHI'S NOVELS.
...AND ALL OF HUMANITY SHOWS ITS THANKS.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
TOILET
IN A HIGHLY MECHANIZED CIVILIZATION, ALL LABOR HAS BEEN HANDED OVER TO ROBOTS...

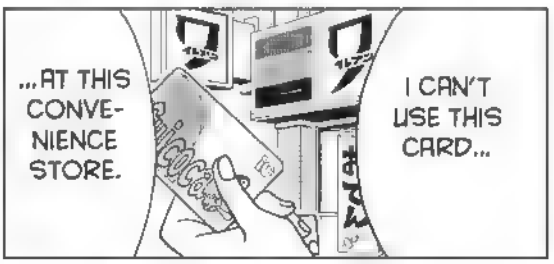
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
鈴木自
SUZUKI AUTO
SHOW THANKS TO ILLEGAL WORKERS!

CHAPTER 119


E-MONEY IS REALLY CONVEN-IENT.
Suicoca
PASWO

WE DON'T ACCEPT THAT.
BENTO BOXES
SANDW
MEAT BUNS
CURRY BUNS

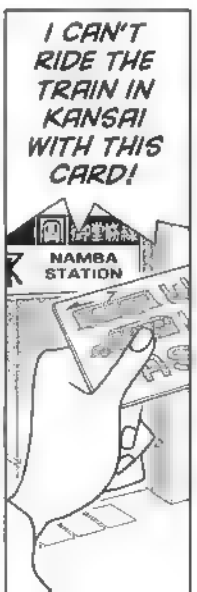
...AT THAT CONVE-NIENCE STORE.
LOWSUN
AND I CAN'T USE THIS CARD...


...AT THIS CONVE-NIENCE STORE.
I CAN'T USE THIS CARD...

SOMETHING I CAN USE EVERYWHERE.
AH-HA-HA. THERE IS SOME-THING.

BLINK

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!


I CAN'T RIDE THE TRAIN IN KANSAI WITH THIS CARD!
NAMBA STATION

1000
72ME23-3K
日本銀行券
千円
日本銀行
1000
見本
SAMPLE
72ME
THIS!
BANK NOTES FROM THE BANK OF JAPAN!
...CASH.
THEY ACCEPT THIS AT MOST PLACES!

...YOU'VE COME FULL CIRCLE.
LOOKS LIKE...
YOU CAME FULL CIRCLE IN YOUR THINKING.
"FULL CIRCLE"?
ADULT TOWN
...THEY TEND TO COME BACK TO WHERE THEY STARTED.
WHAT AMAZING GRAPHICS!
BUT THIS IS THE BEST!
EVEN WHEN PEOPLE STRAY HERE AND THERE...
...BUT IN THE END...
APPLES
AGAR
NATTO
SOY MILK
CHILI PEPPERS
WATER
KONJAC
I TRIED ALL SORTS OF THINGS...
OH. NAMI-CHAN.

...IS REALLY THE BEST WAY TO LOSE WEIGHT.
EXER-CISING ...
THAT'S A RATHER NORMAL THING TO SAY...
EXERCISE IS THE BEST!
SO YOU'VE COME FULL CIRCLE?
...TO RETURN TO YOUR ORIGINAL WAY OF THINKING AFTER STRAYING FOR AWHILE.
HMM... I SUPPOSE IT IS RATHER COMMON...
...AND STUDENTS WERE GRANTED THE OPTION OF DRESSING AS THEY LIKED.
SIGN PETITION FOR FREEDOM OF DRES
A WHILE AGO, THE STUDENTS RALLIED TO GET RID OF THE UNIFORMS...
...BUT EVENTUALLY IT BECAME A PAIN AND THEY CAME FULL CIRCLE.
AT FIRST, THE STUDENTS TRIED THEIR BEST TO DRESS WELL FOR SCHOOL ...
FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNIFORMS AT OUR SCHOOL...
UNIFORMS

STORE
IT CAN BE A PAIN TO PICK YOUR CLOTHES EVERY DAY.
APPARENTLY, THAT'S WHAT A LOT OF THEM SAID.
UJIYA
UNIFORMS AREN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.
HIGH FASHION SHOP LUIGI
THAT'S WHY IT'S STILL SO PERMISSIVE.
WOW, OUR SCHOOL USED TO NOT HAVE UNIFORMS?
...WENT OVERBOARD WITH WOOD FLOORS AND EXPOSED CONCRETE.
I KNEW SOMEONE WHO, WHEN HE CAME TO TOKYO...
HE PRETENDED TO LIVE LIKE ROYALTY FOR A WHILE, BEFORE COMING FULL CIRCLE.
HE TRIED TO BE SOPHISTICATED AFTER MOVING TO TOKYO.
HO HO HO HO ほほほ
HE WAS SUCH A FOOL, THIS PERSON!
...BUT I'VE COME FULL CIRCLE.
HA-HA... I'VE EATEN LOTS OF REALLY DELICIOUS FOOD IN MY LIFE...
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
TATAMI ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.

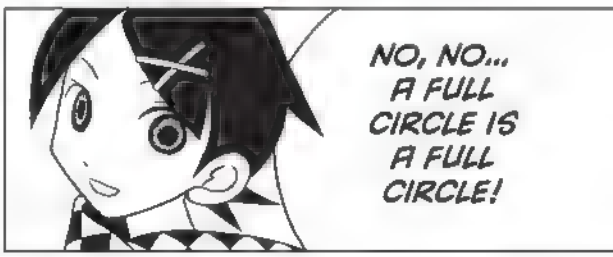
PLAIN RICE IS REALLY THE BEST.

...HAS HE TRULY COME FULL CIRCLE?
WHILE I APPRECIATE WHAT HE'S SAYING...
KARAMARU UDON
UDON LUNCH SPECIAL
JUST GIVE ME SOME WHITE RICE AND MISO SOUP, AND I'LL BE FINE.

...THEY COULD JUST BE TRYING TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WITH THEIR SMUGNESS.
WHEN PEOPLE REPORT THEY'VE COME FULL CIRCLE...

COULD BE.
ISN'T HE JUST SAYING THAT TO SHOW OFF?!

...RUN VERY SHORT-TRACK RACES.
DISTRICT TRACK
ENTRANCE
IT'S JUST THAT SOME PEOPLE ...


NO, NO... A FULL CIRCLE IS A FULL CIRCLE!

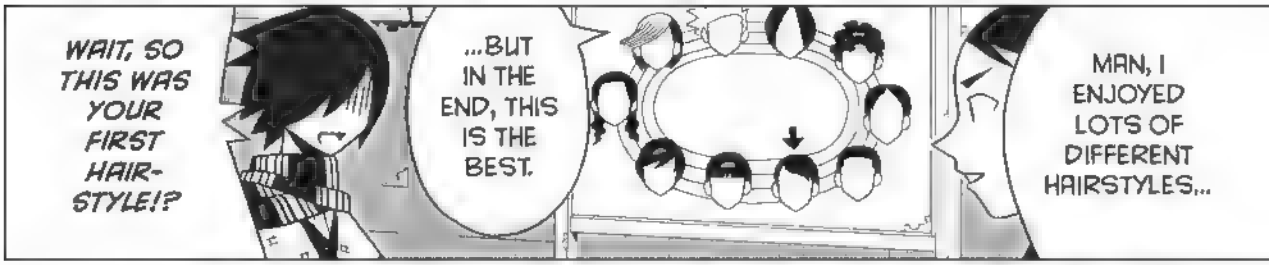
YOU KNOW, I'VE READ LOTS OF MANGA IN MY LIFE...
TELL US WHY YOU'RE RUNNING.

THIS TRACK IS VERY SHORT.
LET'S TALK TO SOME OF THE PEOPLE ON IT.

...BUT OSAMU TEZUKA'S WORK IS REALLY THE BEST.
SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS
SO WHAT OTHER MANGA HAVE YOU READ?
OH LOTS. LIKE HAYATE AND NEGIMA.
LIKE HAYATE AND NEGIMA.
YOU'VE COME...
...FULL CIRCLE!
HAVE YOU COME FULL CIRCLE?
YEAH...
A FULL CIRCLE IS A FULL CIRCLE.
SHORT TRACK
STRAWBERRY
HAYATE
NEGIMA
BLACK JACK
THAT'S... A REALLY SHORT FULL CIRCLE!
I'VE DATED LOTS OF WOMEN...
...BUT I GOTTA SAY, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PERSONALITY.
OH, HERE'S A FAMILY THAT'S COME FULL CIRCLE.
I HAVE A FEELING...
...THIS WAS ALSO A VERY SHORT CIRCLE.

BEING AT HOME IS REALLY THE BEST.
I'VE LIVED IN MANY COUN-TRIES...
I MUST SAY,
MANY PEOPLE SAY THIS... EVEN THOUGH THEY ONLY GO ON ONE TRIP A YEAR.
WE'VE TRAVELED LOTS OF PLACES, BUT IT'S SO EXHAUSTING.
...BUT I REALIZED THAT JAPAN IS REALLY THE BEST.
WAIT, I THOUGHT SHE LIVED IN, LIKE, TWO COUN-TRIES FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.
OH, IT'S KAEDE-CHAN! IT'S BEEN AWHILE.
WHOA! THIS TRACK IS REALLY LONG!
THIS MUST BE ANOTHER SHORT TRACK...
I GOTTA SAY, I PREFER WOMEN WITH STRAIGHT, MEDIUM-LENGTH HAIR.

I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT...
OKUSA-SAN?
AH, I SEE.
HE CAME A LONG WAY.
...BUT I'VE REALIZED THAT MY HUSBAND IS THE ONE FOR ME!
ERR... SO, WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY?
...IN THE END I LOVE MY HUS-BAND!
THE COMPANY PRESIDENT WAS VERY NICE TO ME... BUT... BUT...
I'VE REAL-IZED...
IKKYU-SAN!
...FULL CIRCLE!
YOU'VE COME...

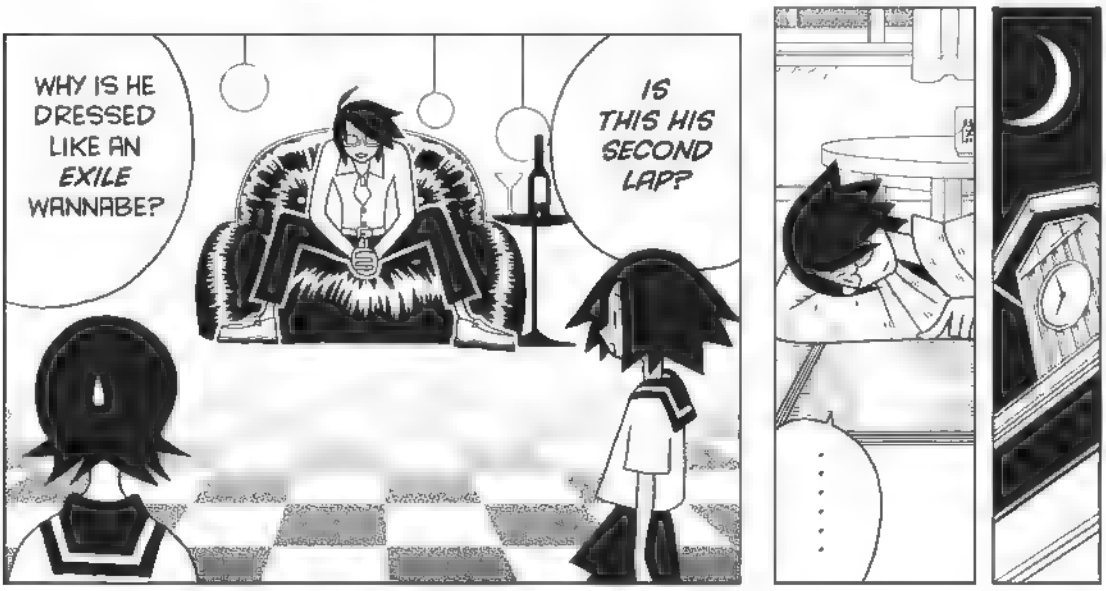


• THE CHUNICHI DRAGONS' CLASSICAL AND ORTHODOX STRATEGY • UNHEALTHY CAMPAIGNS IN HAMBURGER AND *GYUDON* CHAINS' MENUS (MEGA-SOMETHING-OR-OTHER) • THE POPULARITY OF BASIC TECHNIQUES LIKE ELBOWING AND HEADLOCKS IN THE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING WORLD • BLACK HAIR IS BACK • JAPANESE LANGUAGE LEARNING ABROAD • THE POPULARITY OF BUSHIDO • THE POPULARITY OF COMPANY DORMS • LOU OSHIBA • THE JAPANIZATION OF JAPANESE SOCCER • THE MUTSUGORO KINGDOM'S RETURN TO HOKKAIDO • THE POPULARITY OF "PURE LOVE" • SANATORIUM LITERATURE • THE POPULARITY OF TRAVELING WITHIN JAPAN • VIDEO GAMES WITH FOCUSES OTHER THAN GRAPHICS • THE SOFT NOODLES SOLD AT CONVENIENCE STORES IN LUNCH SETS • THE RESURGENCE IN PLACES THAT DON'T GET CELLPHONE SERVICE • FOLLOWING A *MOE* PHASE, GRAVEYARD KITARO'S RETURN TO TRADITION • FOLLOWING A *MOE* PHASE, THE RETURN OF BOYS' MANGA TO SPORTS • "I'VE EATEN LOTS OF HAMBURGERS, BUT MARUSHIN BURGERS REALLY ARE THE BEST" (MAEDA-KUN)

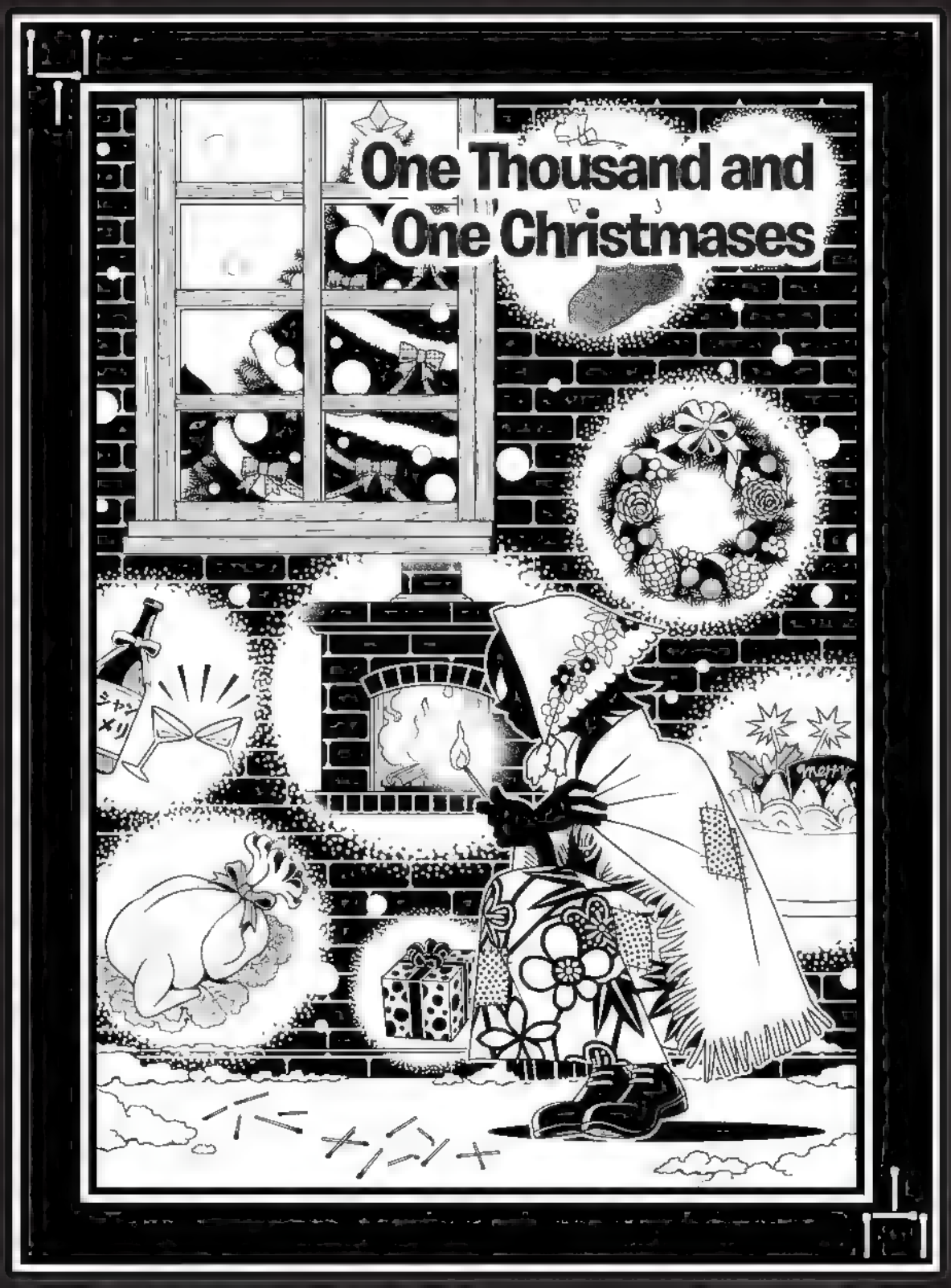
THAT'S WONDERFUL. I'M QUITE IMPRESSED.
OH-HO.
WHENEVER MERU-MERU TRIES TO WRITE SOMETHING, SHE RELIVES A HORRIBLE TRAUMA.
PEEK
EEEP! AGAIN?!
HMM...? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
SHAKE
SHAKE
Me
...BUT I'M ACTUALLY STILL SEARCHING FOR HER.
I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT THE PERPETRATOR IS NOW SIX FEET UNDER ...
I'M GOING TO HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT YOUR CALLIGRAPHY, MERU-CHAN.
I KNOW! A *LOVE LETTER* WOULD BE A PERFECT EXERCISE.
JUST TAKE IT EASY, AND WRITE SLOWLY.
YOU COULD THINK OF ME...
...AS THE BOY YOU'RE WRITING TO.

*TEXT OF NOTE READS: "WHY WOULD I WRITE A LOVE LETTER TO YOU? DROP DEAD, YOU BALD FREAK!"
だれがすきになるかよ
ハゲ
死ね

EVEN IF SHE DIDN'T WRITE IT HERSELF, THE MESSAGE IS CUTE.
WHAT IS THIS, A THREAT!?


WHY IS HE DRESSED LIKE AN EXILE WANNABE?
IS THIS HIS SECOND LAP?
.....

NO.
IF YOU CAME FULL CIRCLE, YOU'D BE DRAWING SPORTS MANGA.
DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT YOU'VE COME FULL CIRCLE AND REALIZED THAT DIRTY JOKES ARE THE FUNNIEST!



CHAPTER 120

MERRY CHRIST-MAS!
GOLF WEAPONRY
MITA
THE HURDLE HAS BEEN RAISED, HASN'T IT?
ON CHRISTMAS...
THAT'S RIGHT.

PEOPLE WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING SPECIAL...
...ARE THE OBJECTS OF *PITY.*
FLAP
THE MAGIC OF CHRIST-MAS...
...WHERE NORMAL ACTIVITIES ARE VIEWED WITH PITY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
FOR EXAMPLE ...

... PEOPLE TAKE PITY ON YOU!
IF YOU'RE ONLINE ON CHRIST-MAS...
287: Anonymous. 2007 12/24 (Mon) 20:40:36
Konata is my wife
288: Anonymous. 2007 12/24 (Mon) 20:57:41
Aren't you guys sad to be online
Christmas?
289: Anonymous. 2007/12/24 (
>288 You too, man!
... PEOPLE TAKE PITY ON YOU!
IF YOU DON'T HAVE A DATE ON CHRIST-MAS...
DRAGON
Mago B
... PEOPLE TAKE PITY ON YOU!
IF YOU WORK ON CHRIST-MAS...
Fam & Inne Mart
HOW COULD PEOPLE PITY STUDENTS FOR SIMPLY WORKING AS THEY MUST?
WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO BUY A CAKE?
CAKES HERE.
I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED ...
OH NO...

HRISTMAS CAKE
KURA
GOLDEN GINZA STORE
ゴールデン銀座店
PHARMACY
YOU SAW ME WORKING ON CHRIST-MAS.
End of the World

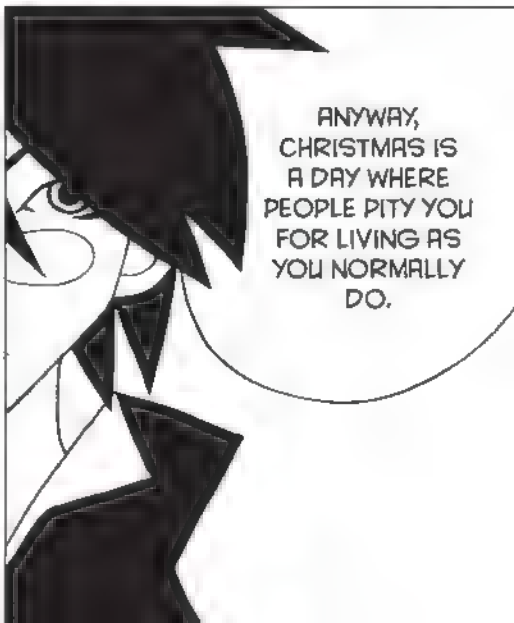
HRISTMAS CAKES
YOU'RE GOING TO IGNORE ME?!
RIGHT, AS I WAS SAYING.
SO.
PHARMACY
End of the World

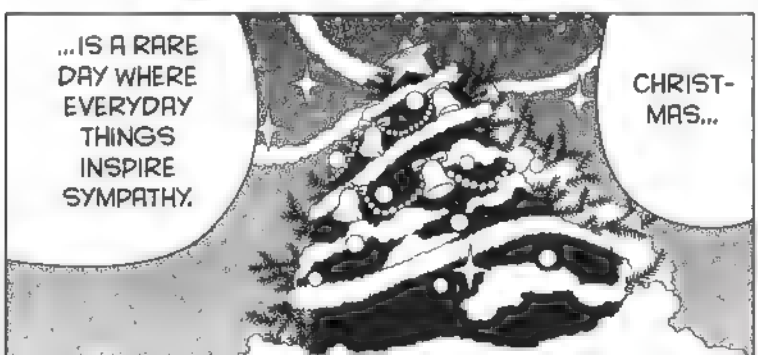
WE'RE DONE TALKING ABOUT THAT.

AS A HUMAN BEING, DON'T YOU PITY ME?!
HARD WARE
DON'T YOU SEE ME WORKING ON CHRISTMAS?!

STOP CALLING ME NORMAL!
...IS RATHER NORMAL.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, TO PITY SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE SHE'S SELLING CAKES ON CHRISTMAS...

WHAAA?!
BUT BECAUSE OF YOU, THE CONTINUITY OF THE STORY WAS INTERRUPTED!


ANYWAY, CHRISTMAS IS A DAY WHERE PEOPLE PITY YOU FOR LIVING AS YOU NORMALLY DO.


...IS A RARE DAY WHERE EVERYDAY THINGS INSPIRE SYMPATHY.
CHRIST-MAS...

FOR EXAMPLE ...
SNAP
麦茶
NATURAL
BARLEY TEA
HM?
DRINKING BARLEY TEA ON CHRISTMAS!
POOR GIRL...
SO WHAT ?!
FUJIY
SEE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "DRESSED LIKE THAT"?!
DRESSED LIKE THAT ON CHRIST-MAS!
POOR GUY...

I THINK I'LL MAKE BOILED TOFU TONIGHT.
HUH?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH BOILED TOFU?
POOR GIRL!
AKAGI PHARMACY
BOILED TOFU ON CHRIST-MAS...
FOR SOME REASON, PEOPLE FEEL SORRY FOR ANYONE EATING JAPANESE FOOD ON CHRISTMAS.
IN AN ANIME I SAW A LONG TIME AGO, THEY MADE A CHRISTMAS CAKE OUT OF SUSHI, BUT APPARENTLY THE KIDS WERE DISAPPOINTED.
FATTY-TUNA BELLY
OCTOPUS
MEDIUM FATTY TUNA
TUNA
SRL MON ROE
EVEN THOUGH A SUSHI CAKE IS FAR MORE LUXURIOUS.
OH, HARUMI? WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?
YES?
HEY, I'M IN NERIMA!
練馬
NERIMA
PI RO PA RO PI
...PEOPLE ARE GOING TO FEEL SORRY FOR ME, BECAUSE IT'S CHRIST-MAS?
SO IF I GO HOME, AND STIR UP SOME SALTED RICE BRAN...
YES, SALTED RICE BRAN WILL DEFINITELY EVOKE PITY.

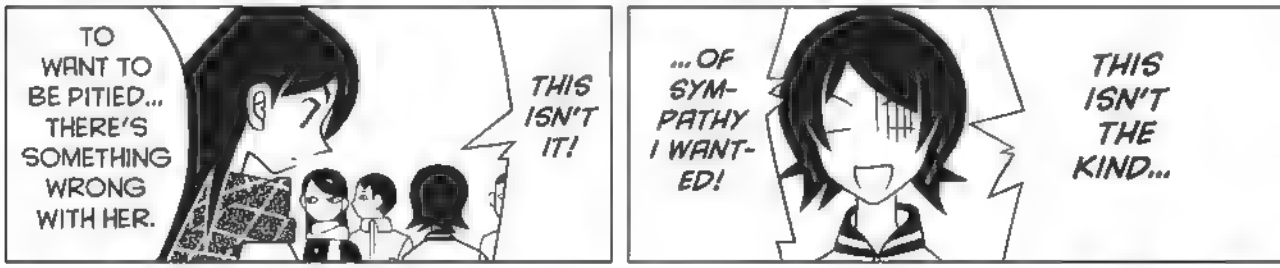
HAGA TRADING
SNEER
NERIMA?
YOU'RE IN NERIMA?
SHE'S IN NERIMA ON CHRIST-MAS?!
POOR GIRL!
THEY FEEL BAD FOR YOU SINCE YOU'RE IN NERIMA.
DID I JUST HEAR PEOPLE IRRATIONALLY PITYING ME?!
YOU SEE? PEOPLE PITY YOU BASED ON WHICH WARD YOU'RE IN!
MURMUR
ANYTHING BESIDES MINATO-KU... PITIFUL...?
I BET ANYTHING BESIDES MINATO-KU IS PITIFUL.
IN THAT CASE, WHICH WARD IS IT OKAY TO BE IN?!
WE GOTTA GO TO MINATO-KU!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
EVERYONE IS DESPERATELY GETTING INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, SO THAT THEY WON'T BE PITIED!
EVERYTHING THAT DOESN'T MEET THE DEFINITION OF CHRISTMAS AS ADVANCED BY THE MEDIA...
HOTEL
Restaurants
TOKYO WALK
X'mas Date
Tokyo 1 WEEK
SPECIAL ISSUE
Xmas Lights
GIANT TREE VIEWINGS! 2007
FANCY DINNER
...IS VIEWED WITH PITY AND SCORN!
I'M IN DESPAIR OVER CHRISTMAS, WHERE NORMAL ACTIVITIES ARE THE OBJECT OF PITY!
I'M IN DES-PAIR!

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT COULD BE A GOOD CHANCE TO *EARN PITY POINTS.*
IT'S A TIME WHEN PEOPLE WILL PITY EVERYTHING... EVEN SMALL THINGS!
WHY YOU'RE...
...ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO WIN THEIR SYMPATHY.
S-SENSEI. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CAN'T YOU SEE?
NOBODY'S BEEN SHOWING ANY SYMPATHY FOR MY DEATH-WISHES RECENTLY.

IT'S CHRISTMAS, BUT MY SOCKS DON'T MATCH.
POOR ME.
HUH ?!
POOR GUY!
IT'S CHRIST-MAS, BUT HIS SOCKS DON'T MATCH! POOR GUY!
WHAT? SYMPATHY FOR THAT, TOO?
POOR GUY!
IT'S CHRISTMAS, AND HE'S SHOWING HIS BUTT TO YOUNG GIRLS.
SUCH SWEET SYMPATHY!
AHHH
WHAT? AND FOR THAT, TOO?!
POOR GUY!
IT'S CHRISTMAS, AND HE'S WEARING OVAL GLASSES.
... SINCE THE FIRST VOLUME!
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO RELEASE THE SYMPATHY-DIGGING SKILLS I KEPT SEALED...
... AND NOW YOU'VE MONO-POLIZED IT ALL, SENSEI!
POOR GUY!
かわいそう
POOR GUY!
NOT FAIR! I WAS THE ONE WHO ORIGINALLY WANTED SYMPATHY...

BE BEAUTIFUL

DON'T MAKE EYE CONTACT.
SHE'S A CRAZY PERSON.
WATCH OUT... SHE'S DANGEROUS.


TO WANT TO BE PITIED... THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER.
THIS ISN'T IT!
...OF SYMPATHY I WANTED!
THIS ISN'T THE KIND...

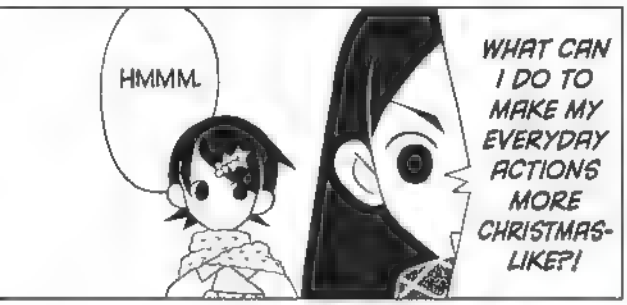
POOR GIRL!
IT'S CHRISTMAS AND HER HAIR IS PARTED EXACTLY IN THE MIDDLE.
WHAT?
STARE

THAT'S DANGEROUS TERRITORY!
HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR NORMAL EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES SEEM MORE CHRISTMAS-LIKE?
WHAT DOES MY HAIR PART HAVE TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS?
WHY WOULD YOU FEEL SORRY FOR THAT?

Sonic
Be Careful
While Driving
Please Follow
Please Keep Your Attention
OR THE CHARACTER ON YOUR GPS (PA-NAKO-SAN) SUDDENLY DRESSING UP AS SANTA ON CHRISTMAS!

...OF MOE CHARACTERS IN SANTA OUTFITS JUST BE-CAUSE IT'S CHRISTMAS!
LIKE YOUR FAVORITE ANIME SHOPS GIVING YOU FREE BOOK-MARKS...

- CHRISTMAS CAKES AT *IZAKAYA*
- CHRISTMAS DINNERS AT FAMILY RESTAURANTS
- THE PIZZA YOU ORDERED BY YOURSELF IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY SANTA
- BENTO BOXES IN CONVENIENCE STORES WITH RIBBONS WRAPPED AROUND THE FRIED CHICKEN
- PLATES WITH ONLY SANTA DOLLS ON THEM IN REVOLVING SUSHI RESTAURANTS
- WHEN THE MAIN PAGE OF ADULT WEBSITES HAS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
- CHRISTMAS TREES IN OFF-TRACK BETTING SITES
- RAMEN SHOPS THAT PLAY CHRISTMAS SONGS TOO LOUDLY
- CHRISTMAS WREATHS IN THE RECEPTION HALLS OF CAPSULE HOTELS
- YOU BUY A JERSEY FOR YOURSELF, BUT IT STILL COMES WITH A CHRISTMAS SEAL
- YOU FEEL STRANGELY HURT RIDING THE TOKAIDO LINE ALONE, SINCE ITS TRAINS ARE THE CHRISTMAS COLORS



MERRY CHRISTMAS.
Merry X'mas...
SHAKE
SHAKE
DO I SEEM MORE CHRIST-MAS-LIKE?
Itoshiki
SENSEI'S CANDLE IS ALMOST GONE.
WHY DO THE CANDLES HAVE PEOPLE'S NAMES!?
SOME-THING ABOUT THESE CANDLES IS WRONG!
JUST A FEW CANDLES REALLY BRIGHTEN THE MOOD, DON'T THEY?

I HAVE A FEELING SOMEONE'S COMING TONIGHT!

CURRENT CHARGES FROM THIS ISSUE

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA

DEFENDANT: "IT'S HOT" FRAUD GROUP

DATE: OCTOBER 10
ATTN: POLICE COMMISSIONER

- PURPOSE OF ACCUSATION

I BELIEVE THE DEFENDANTS' ACTIONS BELOW CAN BE CLASSIFIED UNDER PENAL CODE 226 (HUMAN TRAFFICKING), AND AS SUCH, I REQUEST THAT HARSH PUNISHMENT BE DEALT TO THEM.

- FACTS OF THE ACCUSATION

AT AROUND FOUR IN THE AFTERNOON, DURING AN OUTDOOR LESSON HELD IN THE BAY AREA, THE DEFENDANTS CONDUCTED A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION AND CONSPIRED WITH OUR TEACHER, NOZOMU ITOSHIKI, TO HALF FORCE UPON ME AND THE OTHER FEMALE STUDENTS, USING FRAUDULENT ACTIONS, THE SUGGESTION THAT THE FORBIDDEN PHYSICAL CONTACT AND LOVE BETWEEN TEACHER AND STUDENT WAS "HOT."
THEREFORE, AS I BELIEVE THIS ACTION CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PER PENAL CODE 226, I HEREBY SUBMIT THIS ACCUSATION IN HOPES THAT STRICT PUNISHMENT BE DEALT TO THE DEFENDANTS.

- MEANS OF AUTHENTICATION
1) WITNESS CHIRI KITSU (CLASSMATE)
2) CELLULAR PHONE COMPANY, DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY INFORMATION PROCESSING UNIT

- EXHIBITS
COPY OF AFOREMENTIONED CELLULAR PHONE CONVERSATION RECORDS, 1 COPY

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA
REPRESENTED BY: KAERE KIMURA

DEFENDANT:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: NAMI HITOU

DATE: NOVEMBER 28
ATTN: POLICE COMMISSIONER

- PURPOSE OF ACCUSATION

I BELIEVE THE DEFENDANT'S ACTIONS BELOW CAN BE CLASSIFIED UNDER PENAL CODE 231 (DISPARAGEMENT), AND AS SUCH, I REQUEST THAT HARSH PUNISHMENT BE DEALT TO HER.

- FACTS OF THE ACCUSATION

AT AROUND TWO IN THE AFTERNOON, WHILE I WAS ATTEMPTING TO COMMUNICATE THE BEAUTY OF THE JAPANESE NATION TO MY CLASSMATES DURING A CLASS, THE DEFENDANT REMARKED WHILE I WAS TALKING, "KIMURA-SAN REALLY ONLY LIVED IN TWO COUNTRIES FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME!" THIS REMARK WAS CLEARLY MEANT TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION ON THOSE LISTENING THAT I HAD BEEN MAKING FRAUDULENT STATEMENTS, AND IS THEREFORE A DISPARAGEMENT TO MY CHARACTER.
THEREFORE, AS I BELIEVE THIS ACTION CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS DISPARAGEMENT PER PENAL CODE 231, I HEREBY SUBMIT THIS ACCUSATION IN HOPES THAT STRICT PUNISHMENT BE DEALT TO THE DEFENDANT.

- MEANS OF AUTHENTICATION
1) WITNESS KAFUKA FUURA (CLASSMATE)

PAPER BLOG

PREFACE

IT'S 2008.
PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE RAT'S CURSE THAT'S PARTICULARLY UNLUCKY FOR COPYRIGHTS, NOTHING GOOD HAPPENS TO ME IN THE YEAR OF THE RAT.
12 YEARS AGO (ALSO THE YEAR OF THE RAT), I DREW A MANGA ABOUT DIGGING A HOLE, WHICH WAS IMMEDIATELY CANCELED, AND I BECAME A MANGA ARTIST WHO LOOKED FOR A HOLE TO HIDE IN. OR RATHER, SINCE I WAS UNEMPLOYED FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR FOLLOWING THAT, I WASN'T EVEN A MANGA ARTIST. EACH AND EVERY SINGLE PLOT I WROTE WAS NIXED. LIKE "NISHIOGI SUPER PRO-WRESTLING," OR THE STORY ABOUT THE GIRL ILLUSIONIST: "BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, IT'S DANGEROUS ILLUSIONS!" OR THE GOURMET MANGA ABOUT COFFEE: "NATSUKO'S BEANS" (TENTATIVE TITLE)...
...I THINK THAT "NATSUKO'S BEANS" COULD ACTUALLY BE A HIT NOW.IT'S KIND OF LIKE "LES GOUTTES DE DIEU," RIGHT? THE COFFEE SHOP THAT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NATSUKO'S FATHER, MAMEHIKO, STARTED, IS OVERSHADOWED BY A LARGE COFFEE RETAILER "SATANBUCK'S COFFEE." SHE SWEARS TO REBUILD HER FATHER'S SHOP, AND ENTERS INTO THE WORLD OF COFFEE. WHILE NATSUKO HAD ALWAYS SCOFFED AT COFFEE, SHE IS GRADUALLY SEDUCED BY THE COMPLEXITY OF THE BEAN.
SHE GOES ON JOURNEYS TO FIND THE PHANTOM BEAN, FALLS TO THE MERCY OF OIL MONEY CONSPIRACIES THAT SWIRL THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF COFFEE BEANS, LEARNS THE REASONS WHY BIG COFFEE CHAINS EMPHASIZE FAIR TRADE, AND IS ALMOST KILLED, ETC. SHE FALLS IN LOVE WITH A BARISTA, DE TOORU. SHE JOINS AN ARTISAN GROUP, "SAKURA ROAST," THAT MAKES THE BEST FRENCH ROAST IN THE WORLD, AS A DISCIPLE, AND HER FINAL BATTLE IS WITH LATTE KING, WHOSE BATTLE LINE IS "MY COFFEE IS WITHOUT A SINGLE DROP OF REGRET."
...HOW ABOUT IT, TADASHI AGI-SAN?! CAN I BE THE AUTHOR?
YEAH, SO, THIS IS WHAT I WAS THINKING ABOUT 12 YEARS AGO, WHEN MY MOTHER CALLED ME AND ASKED ME IF I'D ALREADY HIT ROCK BOTTOM, WHICH MADE ME THINK ABOUT CHANGING CAREERS FOR A WHILE. I WONDER IF SHE'LL CALL ME AGAIN THIS YEAR. I HOPE NOT.
HAVE I HIT ROCK BOTTOM?

ARTICLE URL | COMMENTS (0) | TRACKBACK (0)

OP

IT'S 2008.
I ENDED UP WORKING THROUGH JANUARY 1ST.
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DO LAUNDRY, SO FIRST THING IN THE NEW YEAR I HAVE NO CLEAN SOCKS.
"...IT'S AN L."
I TRIED SCRATCHING ONE LEG WITH THE OTHER.
...I CRIED A LITTLE.
NOT ONLY SOCKS, BUT I ALSO HAVE NO CLOTHES TO WEAR.
AND AT THIS RATE, I WON'T HAVE ANY CLOTHES TO WEAR TO GO BUY NEW CLOTHES.
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO BE STYLISH OR ANYTHING, BUT I PREFER TO AVOID THE SITUATION OF NOT HAVING ANY CLOTHES TO WEAR WHEN I NEED TO BUY NEW CLOTHES.
BUT I SHOULDN'T BE TOO GREEDY.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN THOUGHT OF BUYING THAT LEATHER JACKET...
THE BEGINNING OF MY MISTAKE WAS IN THINKING THAT THIS YEAR WOULD BE THE LAST TIME I COULD WEAR ONE WITHOUT STANDING OUT, SINCE MOTORCYCLE JACKETS ARE POPULAR THIS YEAR.
LEATHER JACKETS TEND TO STAND OUT ANYWAY, SO I WAS HOPING TO FIND ONE THAT WASN'T TOO LOUD, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THE RIGHT ONE.
I WENT TO SEVERAL STORES, AND FINALLY FOUND ONE THAT SEEMS GOOD.
I TRY IT ON... EVERYTHING SEEMS GOOD...
THERE'S NOT DOUBT... THIS IS THE LEATHER JACKET I WAS MEANT TO WEAR.
...THIS LEATHER JACKET IS MY DESTINY.
THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN I SENSED SOMETHING ON MY BACK, AND TURN AROUND.

I WAS APPALLED AT WHAT I SAW IN THE MIRROR.
THERE'S A HUGE DEATH'S-HEAD ON THE BACK.../
A HUGE SKULL MADE OF STUDS.
...SORRY! I JUST CAN'T!
I CAN'T WEAR SKULLS. SKULLS AT MY AGE IS LIKE TRYING TO BE LIKE "THE TORA- BURYU."
IT'S LIKE "BLUDGEONING MIDDLE-AGED DOKURO-CHAN."
IT SHOULD GO WITHOUT SAYING THAT MY DESIRE TO PURCHASE THE JACKET WAS BLUDGEONED AWAY, AND I RETURNED TO MY USUAL CHICKEN SELF AND WENT HOME ONLY BUYING SOCKS.
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO TRY TO BUY SOMETHING THAT FASHIONABLE FOLK WOULD WEAR, LIKE A LEATHER JACKET.
I STOPPED CALLING MYSELF ORE AND STARTED CALLING MYSELF BOKU.
I LOST. I LOST TO A LEATHER JACKET.
HOWEVER, I DID NOT LOSE ENTIRELY.
THERE ARE LITTLE SKULLS ON THE SOCKS THAT I BOUGHT.
IT'S RESISTANCE. A CHICKEN-LIKE MINIMUM TYPE OF REBELLION.
BUT IF MY STAFF EVER SEE THEM I'D BE REALLY EMBARRASSED, SO...
"IT'S AN L."

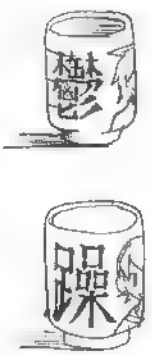
ARTICLE URL | COMMENTS (0) | TRACKBACK (0)

MY MOURNING

IT'S 2008.
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY NEW YEAR'S CARDS. EVEN THOUGH I TRIED MY BEST TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE LAST YEAR, I STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY NEW YEAR'S CARDS.
SINCE I DID A LIVING FUNERAL FOR MYSELF, MAYBE I'M ACTUALLY IN MOURNING FOR MYSELF RIGHT NOW.
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T I MOURN THE HECK OUT OF MYSELF?! YOU CAN ONLY FAKE-DIE ONCE, AFTER ALL. I'LL WEAR DARK AND BORING CLOTHES, WON'T EAT MEAT, WILL AVOID GOING OUT, WON'T LAUGH, AND WILL DRAW MANGA WITH NEGATIVE THEMES...
WAIT. THIS IS WHAT I DO EVERY YEAR.
BUT THIS YEAR, I'LL MOURN A LITTLE HARDER OUT OF RESPECT FOR MY OWN DEATH.
IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE CHALLENGING TO MOURN YOUR OWN DEATH.
ANYWAY, I STARTED BY MAKING MY COMPUTER SCREEN BLACK AND WHITE, AND WORKING ON MY MANGA WITH THE LOWEST POSSIBLE BRIGHTNESS AND SATURATION.
OH KOJI! POOR KOJI! IF MY DRAWINGS ARE SLOPPY, IT'S CUZ I'M DRAWING THROUGH THE VEIL OF MY MOURNING. NOTHING CAN BE DONE. AND ANY READER WHO DECIDES TO CRITICIZE THEM IS BASICALLY SLASHING THE BACK OF THE DEAD WITH A WHIP. OH KOJI! POOR KOJI!//
...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, DRAWING MANGA IS BLACK AND WHITE ANYWAY, SO IT'S KIND OF LIKE BEING IN MOURNING. SO *THAT'S* WHY I HAVE SO FEW COLOR PAGES! AND THAT ALSO MEANS THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN ARTISTS OUT THERE WHO RUDELY NEGLECT TO GO INTO MOURNING EVEN AT THE DEATH OF A GREAT MASTER.
THERE SHOULD BE NO COLOR COVERS OR FLAPS WHEN YOU'RE MOURNING.

ARTICLE URL | COMMENTS (0) | TRACKBACK (0)

I BEGAN A NAUGHTY BUSINESS

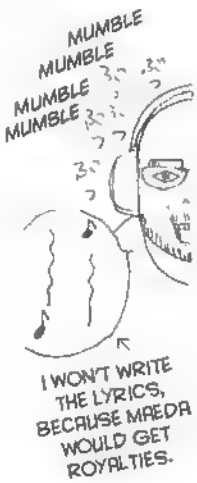


SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL THINKING OF SOMETHING DIFFERENT, LET ME EXPLAIN. NORMALLY, WHEN YOU SELL GOODS AND STUFF, THE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BUY THEM BUY THEM, AND THERE'S NO PROBLEM.
I'M NOT TRYING TO DEFEND HATA-KUN, BUT A NAUGHTY BUSINESS IS WHEN YOU CHANGE THE CD JACKET VERSION AND MAKE PEOPLE BUY SEVERAL COPIES OF THE SAME CD, OR ADD DIFFERENT FEATURES TO THE SAME COMIC VOLUME AT DIFFERENT STORES AND MAKE PEOPLE BUY SEVERAL VERSIONS OF IT, OR MAKE PEOPLE BUY BOXES OF GLASSES IN THE NAME OF TRADING... BASICALLY, WHEN YOU FORCE FANS TO BUY SEVERAL COPIES OF THE SAME THING.
INDIVIDUALLY, I DON'T THINK IT'S A PROBLEM TO SELL ANYTHING FOR ANY PRICE.
ACTUALLY, THOSE KINDS OF THINGS ARE "TAME" NAUGHTY BUSINESSES. COMPARED TO THE BLACK BUSINESS I'M TRYING TO START, THEY'RE LIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS WHO TRY TO ACT TOUGH BUT ARE STILL SUCKING ON THEIR MOTHERS' TITTIES.
I SHOULD BE FRANK: ALL OF YOU HAVE ALREADY FALLEN PREY TO MY BLACK BUSINESS.
THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE VOLUME 1...
ISN'T IT KIND OF WORN OUT BY NOW?
I BET THE COLOR HAS KIND OF FADED, AND IT'S GOTTEN FRAYED BY NOW, HASN'T IT?
THAT'S JUST WHAT HAPPENS WITH WASHI (JAPANESE TRADITIONAL PAPER)... SINCE IT'S SO HIGH QUALITY.
DEAR CUSTOMER, ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU REPLACED IT?
HAVE A SECOND COPY.
THERE ARE NO SPECIAL FEATURES... IT'S THE EXACT SAME THING.
REMEMBER, IF IT GETS TOO DAMAGED, YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO SELL IT TO "BOOK OFF."
"WHAT, IT'S DAMAGED?!" "NO IT ISN'T... THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS DESIGNED!"
I SAY YOU SHOULD JUST BITE THE BULLET AND BUY A SECOND COPY. OH, AND PLEASE STOP LAMINATING THE COVERS, JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE WASHI. IT'S JUST SO LOW-CLASS.

IF THIS ISN'T A BLACK BUSINESS, WHAT IS??
I IMAGINE THIS COULD EVEN BECOME THE BUSINESS MODEL FOR THE MANGA INDUSTRY IN THE FUTURE. AS I READY MYSELF FOR AN INTERVIEW FROM WORLD BUSINESS SATELLITE, I TOOK THE OLD VOLUME 1 OFF MY SHELF.
I IMAGINED THAT IT WOULD BE HARD TO LOOK AT, BUT IN FACT IT HAS MORE FLAVOR THAN A NEW VOLUME. IT'S SLIGHTLY WORN AND FADED, AND QUITE BEAUTIFUL.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH INK THE PRINTERS PROCURED, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE FINAL PROCESSING FOR THE COVER... TIME/
IN FACT, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I INTENDED WHEN I ORIGINALLY DREW THE IMAGE FOR THE COVER...
I APOLOGIZE.
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRIED TO PERPETRATE A DISHONEST BUSINESS.
IN FACT, I REALIZED THAT ALL MY ZETSUBOU SENSEI VOLUMES HAVE ACHIEVED PERFECTION HAVING BEEN ON THE SHELF FOR THREE YEARS.
"SOMMELIER, I WONDER, DO YOU HAVE A 2005 ZETSUBOU SENSEI?"
"...? I DON'T BELIEVE WE HAVE THAT IN OUR CELLAR. INSTEAD, HOW ABOUT A 2004... NEGIMA? IT'S A PERFECT RIPENESS."
"IN THAT CASE, I'LL TAKE IT..."

END CARD

HATA-KUN DREW AN ENDING CARD EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T ASK HIM TO.
I WAS REALLY HAPPY.
THANK YOU HATA-KUN, BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY.
I HADN'T OFFICIALLY ASKED HIM TO DO IT, SO I REALLY FELT LIKE PEOPLE CAN BE INTUITIVE.
BUT I WONDERED WHAT HAD GOTTEN INTO HIM, SINCE I HAD BASICALLY IGNORED HIM UP TO THAT POINT... SO I ASKED, AND...
"IT'S 'CAUSE PEOPLE WERE COMPLAINING ONLINE."
...
I WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN HAPPIER IF HE HADN'T SAID THAT.
DO WEB DENIZENS HAVE MORE AUTHORITY THAN THE MASTER?
WELL, THE ORDER IS ACTUALLY VOICE ACTORS, WEB DENIZENS, AND THEN THE MASTER.
WHAT AM I, THE LOWEST FORM OF LIFE?
WELL ANYWAY, ONE SHOULD NEVER SPEAK BADLY OF SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE HAS DONE FOR YOU.
THANK YOU FOR THE VERY SIMPLE AND CUTE DRAWING THAT LOOKS LIKE IT FIT IN PERFECTLY ON A SUNDAY BACKSTAGE SPECIAL.
BUT, IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT "ADULT POLITICS" COME INTO PLAY...
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT A HIGH-RANKING PERSON AT SUNDAY WILL SAY, "ONE OF OUR STAR ARTISTS SHOULDN'T BE USED FOR AN ANIME OF A RIVAL MAGAZINE."
IT'S NOT MY INTENTION THAT IT SHOULD AIR, AND THEN CAUSE HARM TO HATA-KUN'S REPUTATION.
AND RIGHT THEN, I RECEIVED A REPORT FROM A SPY WHO I HAD SENT TO INFILTRATE HAYATE'S OFF-RECORD DISCUSSIONS (CODE NAME: KICCHIRI).
"THE SUB-TITLE FOR THE NEXT HAYATE ANIME IS GOING TO BE 'SENSEI SAYONARA ZETSUBOU.'"
...IT SHOULD BE TOTALLY FINE IF WE USE IT.
THIS IS NO LONGER ABOUT "ADULT POLITICS."
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO WILL GET MAD ABOUT THIS ARE PEOPLE FROM DISNEY.
JUST AS I THOUGHT, NOTHING GOOD HAPPENS IN THE YEAR OF THE RAT.
WAIT A SECOND... I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE HAYATE HAD BEEN MADE INTO AN ANIME. HE NEVER TELLS ME ANYTHING.
OH YEAH. CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ANIMATION OF YOUR SERIES, SHINA-SAN.



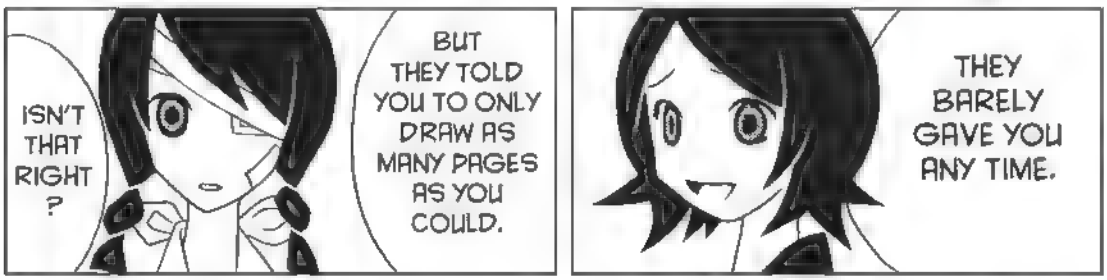
LIVING OFF ROYALTIES

APPARENTLY, MAEDA-KUN GETS LYRIC ROYALTIES.
HOW CAN SOMEONE WHO STANDS AROUND MUTTERING ALL DAY GET LYRIC ROYALTIES?
HOW NICE FOR HIM.
ARE THOSE LYRICS, ANYWAY?
ANYWAY, MAEDA-KUN'S TOTALLY JASRAC'S SLAVE AT THIS POINT.
TO BE FAIR, I ALSO BECAME JASRAC'S SLAVE AND TRIED TO MILK THEM FOR WHAT THEY'RE WORTH, WHICH IS WHY I COMPOSED TRAUMEREI.
HAVE YOU ALL HEARD IT?
I'M SORRY, NONAKA-SAN. THEY DON'T MATCH.
THE SONG AND THE WORDS DON'T MATCH.
SORRY FOR MAKING 11 ROUNDS OF CORRECTIONS.
I'M SURE THAT THE TRAUMEREI I WAS LISTENING TO WHEN I WROTE THAT IN THE PAPER BLOG WAS PERFECT FOR THOSE LYRICS.
...THERE I GO AGAIN BEING DEFERENTIAL.
IT'S A SIGN THAT I'M IN A WEAKENED STATE. PLEASE DON'T TEASE ME.

AN APOLOGY

DUE TO A DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF THE AUTHOR THAT THE WORK WAS NOT UP TO PUBLICATION STANDARDS, WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PRINT THE ZETSUBOU SENSEI SPECIAL, "KIYOHIKO'S NIGHT," AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE APOLOGY.



THERE WAS NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE KEPT UP WITH THE MAGAZINE STANDARDS IN ONLY FOUR PAGES.
SO, DID YOU THINK THAT SINCE IT WAS ONLY FOUR PAGES, IT WOULD SOMEHOW BE FINE?
YEAH, I THOUGHT THAT TOO.
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST TAKEN THE EASY WAY OUT BY NOT DRAWING A MANGA AND DOING AN INTERVIEW INSTEAD.
IT'S RATHER PITIFUL TO USE THE NUMBER OF PAGES AS AN EXCUSE.
...WITH ONLY FOUR PAGES THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT.
EVEN IF PEOPLE COMPLAIN ABOUT A HEAVY-HANDED START...
IT SUCKS TO GET CRITICIZED FOR ACTUALLY DRAWING A MANGA, INSTEAD OF DOING AN INTERVIEW.
...BUT TONA WAS TERRIBLE.
KIYO-HIKO WAS OKAY...
OH COME *ON!*
I ACTUALLY REALLY LIKED KIYO-HIKO.
THEY BOTH SUCKED!
PARIS LIVE
SINCE IT'S AN ANIMAL.
I ACTUALLY LIKED TONA BETTER.

YOU KNOW, PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T ACTUALLY READ IT WILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
WE SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT WAYS HE COULD HAVE MADE IT FUNNIER.
I BET THAT 80% OF THE PEOPLE WHO BOUGHT THIS VOLUME HAVEN'T READ IT.
THEY DID ALL THAT STUFF TO IT.
YEAH, AND IT'S REALLY HARD TO GET THAT MAGAZINE NOW.
IT WAS ACTUALLY REALLY FUNNY.
COME ON, YOU GUYS!
IT WAS SUPER FUNNY.
IT WAS FUNNY. HILARIOUS!
I HAVE A FEELING IT ACTUALLY WAS FUNNY.
OH YEAH, THAT CRACKED ME UP.
ESPECIALLY THE KIYO-HIKO DANCE!

TO ALL YOU PEOPLE WHO HAVE IT, YOU BETTER NOT UPLOAD IT ON THE INTERNET! IT'S ILLEGAL!

ZETSUBOU CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COLLECTION

DADDY BARE LEGS

From below the opened door of the car with tinted windows, all she could see was a leg without a sock on it.

It was a fine bare leg, reminiscent of the character of Junichi Ishida-san. "Daddy Bare Legs"... Judy decided to call the gentleman.

She was to receive an allowance from the gentleman on the condition that she send him monthly emails (with file attachments).

The gentlemen really liked images of bare legs.

DON'T OPEN IT!

WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?
"WHO," YOU ASK...

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. In the case of a text-dense manga like *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*, it's a delicate art indeed. Although most of the jokes are universal, Koji Kumeta is famous for filling his manga with references to Japanese politics, entertainment, otaku culture, religion and sports. Unless you're a true Japanophile, it's difficult to understand it all without some serious background knowledge of current events at the time when the manga was running. Kumeta also uses references to foreign literature and politics, so even Japanese readers probably don't get all the humor. For your reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the more obscure references and difficult-to-translate jokes in *Sayonara, Zetsubou-Sensei*.

Comiket, Harumi, page 13

Comiket, otherwise known as the Comic Market, is the world's largest self-published comic book fair, held twice a year in Tokyo. The first Comiket was held in 1975. Before moving to Tokyo Big Site in 1996, Comiket was held mainly at the World International Trade Show Hall in Harumi, Tokyo. This is the source of Harumi Fujiyoshi's first name.

Rakugo, page 21

A form of traditional Japanese verbal entertainment that still enjoys great popularity. A lone storyteller/comedian sits on the stage, and using only a paper fan and a small cloth, depicts a long and complicated comical story. The stories always involve dialogue that the actor plays out by changing the pitch and tone of his/her voice. In this manga, Jun Kutou is an accomplished *rakugo* comedian.

Yaoi manga, page 22

Yaoi is a genre of manga featuring male-male romantic and often sexual explicit pairings. Often written by and geared toward female audiences, in this manga, Harumi Fujiyoshi is a big *yaoi* fan, and also authors her own *yaoi dojinshi* (amateur manga).

FOR ADULTS
THE PRINCESS, ACCUSTOMED TO LENGTHY WORKS OF LITERATURE, WAS UNDERSTANDABLY ENRAPTURED BY THE STACKS OF YAOI MANGA.

"The best yaoi can be found in Meguro," The Dojinshi from Meguro, pages 21-23

The framework of Jun's story about a princess is modeled after a *rakugo* (see above) story called "The Sanma from Meguro." In this story, a Shogun tastes a grilled sanma (a Pacific saury, which was known as a vulgar fish at that time), in Meguro, and loves its fatty flavor, which he had never tasted before. He orders his chef to cook sanma for him, but the chef, afraid of upsetting the stomach of a great man, steams the fish. After tasting the steamed sanma, the Shogun asks where the chef got the sanma. The chef answered that it was from Nihon-bashi fish market, after which the Shogun says, "the best sanma can be caught in Meguro." This is the punch line of the *rakugo*, and demonstrates the Shogun's obliviousness to the fact that Meguro was just a poor inland village.

"What are you really scared of?," Scared of Animation, page 32

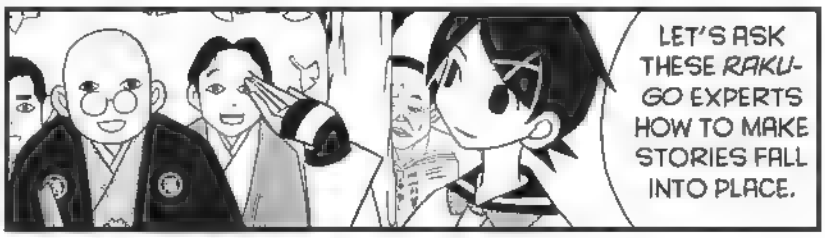
Also modeled after a *rakugo*, this is the story of a group of young men who get together and discuss what they're most afraid of. Most of them say things such as snakes and spiders, but one man insists he is scared of nothing. When pressed, he admits that he is most scared of *manju* (bean paste buns) The other men, angry at his arrogance, decide to teach him a lesson by giving him bean paste buns. At first pretending to be scared, he ends up happily eating the buns, and then declaring that what he's **really** most scared of, is the tea famous from that region...

Tsundere, page 73

Tsundere is a Japanese character development process that describes a person who is initially cold and even hostile towards another person before gradually showing their warm side over time. The word is derived from the terms *Tsun Tsun,* meaning to turn away in disgust, and *Dere Dere,* meaning to become "lovey dovey."

Rakugo expert, page 87

See above.



"Look, it's Hunter... Hunter!" "I wonder if he felt let down?, page 94

The girls are discussing "Hunter x Hunter," a manga series written and illustrated by Yoshihiro Togashi. It was out of publication for one year and eight months, and then resumed, to positive reviews.

"That famous show, the Spring of Auras," page 96

A talk show that aired on Asahi TV from 2005 – 2009, and dealt issues of past lives and aura reading.

Bishojo, otaku, page 100

Bishojo, literally "beautiful girl," is a genre of manga and anime, usually geared at male audiences, that features large casts of beautiful girl characters, who are often all in love with a central male character. This genre is read avidly by *otaku,* a term generally used to describe those obsessed with anime and manga, and often thought to lack social skills or career ambition.

Showa Era Year 82, page 107

The Showa Era was from 1925–1989. Showa 82 is not a real year, but would be the equivalent of 2007 if the Showa Era had lasted that long.

Labor Thanksgiving Day, page 107

A national holiday in Japan, it takes place annually on November 23. The law establishing the holiday cites it as an occasion for commemorating labor and production and giving one another thanks.

Chunichi Dragons, Fukudome, page 113

Referring to Kosuke Fukudome, an outfielder for the Chunichi Dragons. In 2007, he injured his right arm and had to fly to the US for surgery, and was thus unable to contribute to the Dragons' victory that year.

Hirayama, Kashiwagi, page 113

Referring to Souta Hirayama and Yousuke Kashiwagi, members of Japan's national soccer team. The comment insinuates that forward Hirayama has the leisure to wait on the front line because centerfielder Kashiwagi works hard.

Tatami, page 125

Tatami is a type of mat used as a flooring material in traditional Japanese-style rooms. Traditionally made of rice straw to form the core, with a covering of woven soft rush straw, tatami are made in uniform sizes.

Exile, page 132

A 14-member all-male Japanese pop dance group.

The Christmas Chapter, page 134

In Japan, Christmas is celebrated differently from Western countries. More a commercial holiday than anything, it is a time for couples to go on dates and buy each other presents. This explains the social anxiety that many people might have for spending Christmas "normally." Note that it is not a time when families are expected to get together.

Nerima, wards, Minato-ku, page 141

Nerima ward in northeast Tokyo is considered the outskirts, and hence a decidedly "not-hip" area of Tokyo. However, it is also the home of anime, with a large number of animation studios including Toei, AIC, Mushi Productions, and Studio Gallop. (This might explain why Harumi is in Nerima on Christmas.) In contrast, Minato ward (or "ku") is located in central Tokyo, and is both the most expensive and hosts the Imperial Palace.

YOU SEE? PEOPLE PITY YOU BASED ON WHICH WARD YOU'RE IN!
THEY FEEL BAD FOR YOU SINCE YOU'RE IN NERIMA.
DID I JUST HEAR PEOPLE IRRATIONALLY PITYING ME!?

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha Comics not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics books.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.